SPORTS / A30

Baddeley, Woods in final flight of US Open

BUSINESS / B1

Investments from abroad surged to P46.56B in first 5 months

WORLD / A27

China catches slave-labor boss amid national uproar

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
FEARLESS NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, June 18, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 190 P18

Bayan Musa leader dies from bullet wounds

By E. Bagayas and J. Magallanes
Inquirer Visayas

UP, UP AND AWAY
Candidates of Miss ng Pilipinas 2007 take their first lessons in parasailing at Subic Bay. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority is hosting the pageant, which will culminate on June 23.

2 anti-GMA generals back Trillanes probe

'Ammo' to be supplied on killings, 'Hello Garci' scandal

By Christine V. Esguerra

MILITARY REBEL-TURNED-SENATOR ANTONIO Trillanes IV is not alone in his plan to resurrect the "Hello Garci" controversy and take the Arroyo administration to task for the unabated extrajudicial killings.

A group of opposition officials critical of President Macapagal-Arroyo has vowed to lead the denounced senator-elect with "ammunition" to draw out issues once he begins work in the 14th Congress next month.

Two of these officials, both generals, spoke with the Inquirer yesterday on condition of anonymity.

"We will send him [Trillanes] all the ammunition, the pieces of evidence that we have in our possession," one of the officials said in an interview. "He can use them as materials for future (anti-government) privilege speeches."

Trillanes could use as his opening salvo information on how an other general, "spoke openly" about liquidating militants as duties in Luzon, according to the younger of the two generals.

The source said the discussion took place during a command conference in which the general asked his men about the status of their supposed "mission" against militant groups.

The man among his new best many militants they had killed so far," the source said. "They were discussing it openly. They were even boasting of the killings."

"They really had a 'gunpoint' mentality [with pulburs]."

The source said another general present at the command conference was an installation of the bloodiest discussion that he pleased that Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon to ask: "Is killing militants

LAWYA SPEAK A-9

GO lawyer warns poll body on fake vote tallies

By Nikko Dizon and Nash E. Madava
Inquirer Mindanao

THE CHIEF LAWYER OF THE Genuine Opposition (GO) yesterday warned the Commission on Elections against falling for what he said were manufactured tens upline in support of administration-ties claims the Team Unity (TU) senatorial candidates had shot out the opposition in the elections in Maguindanao.

GO chief counsel Atty. Sedfrey Ordoñez issued the warning at a ng-level team of Comelec officials, headed by Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., prepared to fly to Maguindanao this week to look into the alleged massive fraud.

The Team could affect the 12th slot in the senatorial race which 10% Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and TU's Juan Miguel

SEE LAWYERS A-11

New center to document RP dialects

By Peter Lo Jaluar
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGAC, ILOCOS NORTE—Beyond of learning only as previous ng Filipino as the national language, the dominant as "sibling Filipino (2007) is now looking at the development, propagation and preservation of the country's more than 170 dialects and regional languages.

"The KWF leadership has agreed to establish a center for translation, documentation and research on the languages and various literatures of the Philippines," KWF Chair Ricardo Ma. Nolasco said.

Nolasco, who spoke in Filipino, delivered the keynote address at a recent international gathering here of 102 Filipino educators,

NEW CENTER A-11

'Ghost town' loses P100M due to fish kill

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ANDA, PANGASINAN—THE municipality blamed here has become a "ghost town" following the massive fish kill that led to least four fishing villages in this coastal town last week.

Anda Mayor Nestor Pulido has placed the losses at P100 million.

No aquaculture activity was noted and the fish pens and cages appeared deserted during an inspection and water sampling conducted on Saturday by the National Integrated Fisheries Technology Development Center (NIFTDC).

"In this area, we should be seeing people feeding their stocks, harvesting hungry milkfish or releasing new fingerlings," said Dr. Wendy Basares, head of the NIFTDC, the research arm of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Although the awareness had

GHOST TOWN A-11

FISHERMEN scoop up the dead "tanguc" or milkfish in the inland town of Anda in Pangasinan.

2 lessons from the trenches

By Winston A. Marbella

(Second of three parts)

"CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN," THE banner headline on its front page a the start of the 10-day campaign period. "The camera is back in town," the story went once say.

In a few more days (September 13—the time as the Commission on Elections figures out what to do about the Maguindanao election (or lack of it)—the national will be torn in no make will be left, as the world empties, 12 million of countries, a thousand of broken dreams." is a time for goodbyes. Occasionally wiping away

2 LESSONS A-11

Inquirer most read broadsheet, says poll

By Cyril L. Bonabonte
Inquirer Research

FOR THE SIXTH STRAIGHT year, the Philippine Daily Inquirer is the most-read broadsheet in the country, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Nielsen's nationwide survey, conducted in the first quarter of 2007, showed that 54 percent of respondents who read a broadsheet the previous day said the Inquirer was their broadsheet of choice.

The survey estimated that the Inquirer had 1.47 million readers.

The survey questionnaire used in the face-to-face interviews had 16 national broadsheets, including business and foreign papers.

"We check all our readers and partners for always striving to be No. 1. I would like to assure them that our achievements will not lull us into complacency, but certainly drive us to continuously innovate and improve to give everyone greater value," Inquirer president

INQUIRER A-2

Military may need Trillanes, says Esperon

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon
and Christine O. Avendaño
in Manila

PORTOL PILAR, BAGUIO City—Before the day 14 elections, armed forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. sounded like a military

MILITARY A-2

Second FRONTPAGE

6/23 28 31 | Mid-Day 1 9 5 | 6/22 STRTO 3 8 9

SUPER LOTTO 6/49
6 18 20 42 44 47
P23,746,681.80

WEATHER FORECAST

BOSSI ABDUCTION
Next 24 hrs critical

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE NEXT 24 HOURS WILL BE crucial for authorities searching for kidnapped Italian missionary Giancarlo Bossi.

The military said yesterday it might be able to secure the safe return of Bossi who was kidnapped a week ago by a 10-member armed group near his parish church in Zamboanga Sibugay.

"We might have a positive development in the next 24 hours," said Maj. Gen. Ruy Elviro Abadia, AFP commander for Metro Manila and head of the government panel in the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group. The ubog monitors cooperation between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), in the resolution of criminal activity in Mindanao.

Dedicatoria said the chances of rescuing Bossi were "higher than 50 percent."

The government has been monitoring with the MILF in the search for Bossi, who was last seen in the mountainous area in Buringan Municipality, Zamboanga village.

Yesterday, Dedicatoria declined to say if the Italian priest and his abductors were still in the area.

"I can't say it might jeopardize ongoing operations," he said in a phone interview.

But Dedicatoria did admit the authorities were following a "positive" lead.

Asked if Bossi would be recovered either through negotiations or rescue operations in the next 24 hours, Dedicatoria said "possibly" and "God willing."

He said Bossi's abductors were "innocuous" in the manner of taking the hostages, a departure from earlier military assessments that the kidnappers had seized some other hostages, including three foreigners, since 1999.

Dedicatoria also denied reports Bossi had been turned over to the abductors.

"We definitely were not turned over to the elite forces," he said.

Dedicatoria earlier said the military was confirming an alleged plan by the kidnappers to turn the Italian priest over to the extremist group in Basilan.

The plan was said to have been thwarted by the immediate response of the military and the MILF to the abduction of Bossi.

Cardinal Rosales to retire; did Cruz quit?

By Nikko Dizon

MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO CARDINAL Rosales, who turns 75 in August, is all set to submit his letter of retirement to Pope Benedict XVI.

"It's NOT intending upcoming procedures among the prelates pushing 75, the year of their retirement," Bendy Hosaka, spokesperson of the Manila archdiocese, said yesterday in a phone interview.

She said it was up to the Pope to accept the cardinal's resignation.

Meanwhile, outspoken Jaruzelski Archbishop Oscar Cruz has reportedly submitted his resignation to the Vatican.

The Inquirer news bid failed to contact Cruz to confirm the report.

Msgr. Nelly Quitorio III, spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), told the Inquirer by phone yesterday that there were a number of bishops and archbishops turning this year.

Dedicatoria said she was not certain if Rosales had already submitted his letter of retirement to the Pope.

She said the cardinal, whose birthday is on Aug. 14, was scheduled to fly to the Vatican later this month.

In a recent interview with Gloria Arroyo, Rosales said he had written his resignation letter on June 19.

PlunderWatch draws flak for 'turnaround' in Estrada case

By Christine V. Esguerra

THE ANTI-ESTRADA GROUP PlunderWatch yesterday drew flak from administration lawmakers for potentially giving up on the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Representatives Douglas Cagas of Davao and Emigdio Tanjuatco of Antipolo criticized the watchdog group for saying that an Estrada conviction would merely be a matter of "political expediency" for the former administration.

They said PlunderWatch, an alliance of militant and civil society groups that worked to bring down Estrada in 2001, might have made a deal with the former President.

Partnership

"Probably they have a partnership with Erap so that the group does not want to see him convicted anymore in the case they filed in 2001," Cagas said in a statement.

Javier Aguinal, saying PlunderWatch showed a "lack of dedication and sincerity in pursuing closure/lawsuit,"

The lawmakers noted that PlunderWatch had been a vocal critic of Estrada's and had been heavily involved in the filing of plunder charges against him.

But interviewed during the oral arguments for the mid-last week, PlunderWatch convenor Ed Arnaldo said he was no longer keen on an Estrada conviction.

Arnaldo, chair of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the Arroyo administration lacked the "moral high ground" to justify Estrada's conviction.

He said groups that had hounded Estrada's cronies were no longer in social mobilization because "the men of the Arroyo administration were equally guilty."

"You have political killings, graft and corruption, election fraud," she said.

Cagas countered in an e-mail to the Inquirer that government prosecutors had ignored help from PlunderWatch.

"It's unimaginable that the prosecution would refuse help from PlunderWatch which strongly endorsed its (Estrada's) wrongdoings before," he said.

Conviction

Javier was confident that Estrada would be convicted on the basis of the evidence presented by the prosecutors.

"We are confident that the court will not give justice in this case but would rather wish to the facts, evidence and the law submitted constitutes to the elation of the accused," he said.

In Ngau City, Estrada's chief accuser, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, expressed confidence that the former President would be found guilty.

"Erap will get a guilty verdict and will serve jail time," Singson told the Inquirer on Saturday.

Singson said the evidence presented by the prosecution proved that Estrada, his former friend and drinking buddy, was guilty.

In his testimony before the court, Singson accused Estrada of receiving "jueteng" payoffs and P130 million in tobacco excise tax shares.

Singson testified former Solicitor General Raul Bo Gonzalez, Estrada's lawyer for saying that the governor should be charged with receiving kickbacks. Like a "bridge" on testifying against a friend, that was unbecoming the court.

"I did not falsify anything. What we submitted was genuine evidence to prove our case against Erap," Singson said. When a reporter's from Ilocos in Radio 63, Inquirer Visayas Luzon

Joker, Ping fight over blue ribbon panel getting nastier

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BATTLE FOR THE CHAIRmanship of the Senate blue ribbon committee is turning out to be more serious than the fight for the presidency in the Senate.

In their remaining weeks in office, blue ribbon chair Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. have locked horns over Enrile's "lying" about the post.

Lawmakers said earlier said the blue ribbon committee should be headed by an opposition senator like himself after it deliberately cut out the Jose Pidal case by delaying committee hearings and refusing to issue a report on the investigation.

Botched job

But Arroyo said Lacson, a former national police chief, "botched" the Senate's Jose Pidal inquiry by failing to get a court order to open the bank accounts purportedly owned by President Ma. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Senator Arroyo's revelation served that the Jose Pidal case hinges in part during the 1987 Congress.

"The 13th Congress will have its own terms and we will be witnessing the onset of the 14th Congress," Senator Lacson has yet to get a court order on the box openers and so the executive secretary just says he has. And he lately after the blue ribbon committee chair? He can have it," Arroyo said in a statement.

The Senator Arroyo should be true to himself. He crowned up the Senate's reputation for "grave fiascoes," said Lacson, pointing out that Arroyo was the least successful candidate of Erap in Presidential in 1992's political poll's.

But Arroyo would not take responsibility for the Pidal probe.

Senator Lacson talks through his hat when he says he wants a change of the Jose Pidal case. Of course there has been discussion already about control by himself. In his own fiefdom and mention. He botched it, plain and simple," Arroyo said.

Committee ruling

Arroyo cited a 2003 blue ribbon committee ruling that said it "cannot just inquire into the bank deposits of a private individual merely because an executive official is involved. It is a privilege agreed and a congressional inquiry is confirmed to study what one might better describe as a public servant's rather than the public interest."

Arroyo stressed that the 1993 Bank Secrecy Law "did not empower congressional committees to examine...without revocation of the judicial process—bank deposits by individuals subject to the mandate of a duly authorized and unanimous vote of which is Congress is an impeachment court."

Arroyo said Lacson must prepare proof "of illegal and not merely improper, of criminal and not merely civil wrongdoing" before he could be found to the Blue Ribbon.

In contrast to the battle for the blue ribbon committee, another race set to fly between Senate President Manuel Villar and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is taken place for the position currently held by Villar.

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INQUIRER

Goodbye Lipo, Hello Ultrashape!

Ultrashape – Lipo Without The Suction continues to make waves in the slimming industry since its official launch in Manila early last year. Tagged as the first non-invasive breakthrough in body contouring, Ultrashape uses an ultrasound beam to breakdown and liquefy fats from outside the body. Promising an average reduction of about 2cm in just one treatment, it effectively reduces fat deposits on multiple body areas such as the tummy, flanks and thighs.

A small amount of fat reduction is just not worth undergoing surgery for. Liposuction usually involves massive body contouring, and is often not recommended when only a few inches of fat have to be removed. Thus, for the majority of people who only need a few touch-ups, Ultrashape offers a much safer alternative. It gives the benefits of liposuction without the risks or side effects, surgical scars and downtime. The result: Smooth, even and shapely curves you can flaunt even without your clothes on!

Due to its increasing popularity, demand for Ultrashape is high often resulting to fully booked appointment schedules from its growing roster of clients. These women have verified – they have finally found the best alternative to liposuction!

Dawn Zulueta-Lagdameo, 38

"When Ultrashape was offered to me, I was excited! If Ultrashape concentrates on that last hard-to-lose fat that remains on your body even after you've lost weight. I told myself, at last, there was a chance to lose all that stubborn fat that just wouldn't seem to go away. The doctor explained that Ultrashape destroys the fat cells in the targeted areas like my stomach and thighs. From there, the fat is metabolized and burned naturally by my body as energy. The treatment takes an hour and a half and is done once a week.

Ultrashape is really the perfect finishing touch for people like me who have lost weight but still have some bumps and lumps. After my first treatment, I immediately said to myself 'wow, it's perfect!' Ultrashape definitely has all the benefits of lipo minus the surgery and all the risks! There's no downtime whatsoever. So yes sis, liposuction is unnecessary."

Lyn Cheng-Pascual, 34

"What intrigued me about Ultrashape is the claim – the easy treatment you can have in your lunch break. Apart from that, a friend of mine said that her friend tried Ultrashape as soon as it came out in the market. And she immediately lost 2 inches in just one month! Ultrashape promises an average of about 2cm, that's true, but it's also possible for someone to lose even more than that too. That's why for me, even if liposuction was the only weight-loss treatment available, I'd rather walk up a building 300 times than have an operation because I don't want the possibility of dying for vanity.

With Ultrashape around, everyone now gets a better slimming option. Since it's non-invasive, I've got nothing to worry about. After buying it for myself, I was like, 'is this real?!' I just walked in, got the treatment and after an hour, I was on my way back to work again! It's as if nothing happened. The best part was, I could fit my tummy flatter only after a few weeks! No doubt it's the perfect way to trim down excess fats!"

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, 42

"Nothing really compares to Ultrashape. When I tried it, I immediately lost 4cm in my tummy after only 1 session! Imagine what a couple of sessions more can do! Diet pills and crash dieting don't work for me. With my catering and events business, I can't just turn my back from tasting and savoring my own menus. Shoo-os, if it's lipo we're going to compare Ultrashape with, lipo doesn't even come close to it as far as safety is concerned. Besides, with Ultrashape around, why would anyone still want to settle for liposuction?! I mean to very desperate or I must be so fat that I could no longer move before I'd consider getting it done. I just find it too dangerous!"

Undeniably, Marie France's Ultrashape is solid proof that the trends in slimming now slant towards the approach that's safer yet as effective. After going through a weight-loss program, it is highly recommended to continue with Ultrashape treatments right after. It's the best final touch-up to getting rid of remaining stubborn fats in the body. For booking schedules, call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639).

'Ghost town' loses P100M due to fish kill

From page A1

here cleared of thousands of dead fish, the air so heavily stank. Nets in fish pens and fish cages had also been raised to dry.

The fish kill started in the Kalipuknan Channel, which separates this town from Bolinao.

Hundreds of tons of bangus were lost. At least 35,000 kilograms or about 30,000 bangus were stocked in each cage and pen, according to Pulido.

There were some 60 fish cages and another 60 fish pens, for a total of 120 structures, in the Kalipuknan Channel, according to the mayor.

Pulido said the dead fish were loaded onto dump trucks and taken in an area in Mid-cog village where there were none.

Oil learned days, the 120 fish pens and cages in the channel are guarded by at least two caretakers but when harvest time comes (about the same time the fish kill struck), at least 25 people would be in the structures to help harvest the stocks.

People manning the structures in the channel started hearing the villages on Wednesday because of the fish kill.

"It will take time before they can release fingerlings again," Rosario said after visiting the dissolved oxygen level in one area of the channel.

"Look, it's only 0.1 parts per million (ppm). The desired level (of oxygen) is 4 ppm," he said.

Gomer Caballar, a caretaker of fish cages in Anang, said Vice Mayor Napoleon Cabaar, who owns a fish cage and three pens, suffered huge losses.

Caballar could not quantify Cabaar's losses but he said that from what he heard, Cabaar and his partners lost about P35 million.

Worst

"This is the worst fish kill so far in Bolinao," Caballar said, as he threw fish food to the hungry that were struggling to live in his fish cage.

Even before the fish kill, his office had already conducted oil sampling and tests in the area, Rosario said.

"The temp tide has normalized greatly in the fish kill. The water became angsty and this caused the problem," Rosario said.

A temperate is the lowest code of the three months, usually occurring in the second and fourth quarters of the town.

Rosario said dissolved oxygen could come from two sources—sunlight, because of photosynthesis, and mechanical means, like the movement of the water in tides.

"So, two weeks ago we saw the problem there and we advised the farmers and local governments that it was high risk during that period," he said.

Pangasinan is the focus region's leading bangus producer largely because of the fish pens and fish cages, which are concentrated in the Kalipuknan Channel.

MAP shows Kalipuknan Channel—the area of the fish kill.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 18, 2007
Monday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Cor 6:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 5:38-42

Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you this: do not oppose evil with evil. If someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn and offer him the other, too. If someone sues you in court for your shirt, give your coat as well. If someone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give when asked and do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you."

Commentary:

Do we avoid giving offense in our encounters? We preachers need to live with patience and discretion—listen to the litany of what Paul says is to be expected if we work with the power of God for others! There are grave demanding moments also when reproof, admonition and the touch of God, and the gift of reforming as we share with the hearing of others. Do we readily live as though we have nothing? But everything is ours!

Jesus wants something from us, and isn't He on hand requiring us continually. We are to live as he did: no resistance to injustice—we are to live without violence, without harm or offense, no matter what is done to us. What does this mean? It means to look like our adversaries as on the eve, and what we are and let them see what they have done to pierce[illegible] unbearably before them. What others take, give them more so that they can see what they are doing and feel some generosity. How facile we have become—sadly!

—Sylvia Fallon, OP

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Inquirer most read broadsheet, says poll

From page A1

and CEO Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said yesterday.

Nielsen's 12th Media Index covered 2,520 respondents aged 10 years and above from all socioeconomic classes in 22 cities all over the country. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Placing second in the survey was Manila Bulletin with 47 percent or about 1.27 million readers, followed by Philippine Star with 26 percent or an estimated 1.31 million readers.

Nielsen said the size of the readership diarea of the three newspapers exceeded 100 percent because some respondents read more than one broadsheet.

Of the 2,520 interviewees, 1,000 came from Metro Manila. The rest came from other urban centers.

No. 1 in Mega Manila

Among the broadsheets, the Inquirer had the highest readership in Mega Manila (49 percent), in the Visayas (77 percent) and in Mindanao (90 percent). Mega Manila comprises Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal.

Overall "yesterday readership" of newspapers (broadsheets and tabloids), however, went down, from 58 percent during the first quarter of 2006 to 53 percent during the same period this year. Broadsheet readership decreased from 9 percent to 8 percent.

Nielsen Media Research is one of the leading providers of television audience measurement and advertising information services worldwide. It used to release the Media Index annually, but in 2006, it started conducting the readership survey twice a year.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer was established in 1985 by Eugenia Apostol and other media practitioners to meet the demand for a credible broadsheet that was free from the influence of the Marcos regime.

It helped chronicle the historic 1986 Edsa Revolution, which toppled then President Ferdinand Marcos.

Starting with 65 million in assets more than one the publication of 30,000 copies of the paper's maiden issue on Dec. 9, 1985, the Inquirer has expanded to cater to more than one million readers.

Innovations

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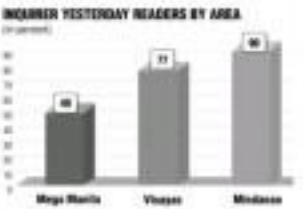

tions the Inquirer has undertaken. "We're publishing more issues, inquisitive reports. Junior Inquirer is now circulated nationwide, our positive stories are highlighted daily with a red tag, and Sunday Inquirer Magazine has rebranded and is now printed on glossy paper."

The Inquirer has also brought information to the web. Its official news website, newsinquirer.net, is currently the most visited Filipino news site.

The newspaper's sister publications include Libre, Cebu Daily News, Bandera and Tempo.

The Inquirer has printing presses in Mabini City Laguna, Cebu City and Davao City.

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Military may need Trillanes—Esperon

From page A1

mediately was the only place where Trillanes II was to be in.

Now, Esperon is saying the silver lining in the electoral victory of the Senate hero-turned-rebel, who the military is prosecuting for involvement in the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

Esperon said here on Saturday that this showed Filipinos regard Trillanes (Philippine Military Academy Class 1995)—as unlike Senator Gregorio Honasan (Class 1971), Senators Ramon Lanson (1971) and Rodolfo Biazon (1961)—he paid a legislative agenda that would benefit the military.

With his poll victory, Trillanes joins the line of former military officers in the Senate.

Esperon refused to discuss Trillanes' case at length during a talk with reporters. He referred to the new senator simply as "that gentleman" and said rebel officers would still face charges despite the results of the elections.

But if he would be asked to call for the Senate's "PMA bloc" some suggestions, Esperon said the AFP could seek from them laws prescribing fixed service terms for appointed military officials, as well as a law that would remove military promotions.

Esperon also said he was unmoved as lawmakers in the last convening the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) to increase the AFP's shares in conversion revenues.

Wish list

The AFP says its share is 0 percent to modernization program and some upgrade, he said.

Esperon feels the military has not been getting a fair share from the sale and privatization of the former American bases in the country.

"We are getting something like half of the proceeds of the 0.22-ha. sales only after they declare 50 percent, or 611 percent is divided between the BCDA and the AFP," he said.

The thing Esperon finds strange—but September said—he would not automatically dissolve the Senate as responsibility for the Oakwood incident.

"Theoretically and it is the rule, sorry if you can be office and become a civilian, you will fall under the jurisdiction of the court-martial with a verdict is handed out. That is how it works," he said.

'That gentleman'

"It politicians supposedly has won an election, but the court-martial has jurisdiction over him ... He is undergoing an

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NEW ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN
Newly appointed Assistant Ombudsman for the Finance and Administrative Office (FAO) Lydia O. Acosta (second from left) takes her oath before Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez. Rosario Marcelino, assistant secretary for financial and management service at the Department of Justice before being named Assistant Ombudsman, looking on are Executive Assistant Loli M. Pena and DOJ Witness Protection Program consultant Teresita C. Lavar.

Gonzalez gets power over immigration

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ APparently has been quietly awarded by Presidential Management Staff with the Bureau of Immigration.

On April 2, Mr Arroyo signed Administrative Order No. 139 strengthening the Department of Justice in its role of ensuring that the Bureau of Immigration would be a more effective and highly responsive organization every one necessary police component of the government."

This has made Gonzalez the de facto commander chief, documents obtained by the Inquirer showed.

The order was signed prior to Malacañang's announcement on April 20 of the appointment of former Bataan Rep. Marcelino Libanan as commissioner of immigration as prior of Alipio Fernandez who was the suspended nineteen as Deputy Czar.

The President invoked her "continuing authority" to reorganize the executive under the 10th law of the President to any other department or agency in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended by PD 1772, and the Administrative Code of 1987.

The order gives the justice secretary or his duly authorized representative "the power to act on immigration cases, including matters of visas and admission of aliens, and to countermand decisions of the Board of Commissioners."

The 2004 chief also has the power to "transfer, detail, assign or reassign officials and personnel, including presidential appointees, of the BI.

Provided, however, that such reassignment will not affect the tenure of office of the officials concerned except in the case of temporary detention if such a detention involves the Board.

Libanan, an ex-chair of the House committee on justice, had served as a member of the Commission on Appointments which Justice Secretary Gonzalez's appointment.

Lacson raps antilaundering body over freeze

SEN. PANFILO LACSON WAS CHASTISED the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) for freezing some P1.26 billion in suspected funds during the last election period, saying it raise a lot of public skepticism.

Lacson questioned the AMLC's announcement that it had frozen accounts involved in illegal political transactions reported to the council by banks and other financial institutions.

Under Republic Act No. 9160, the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, daily transactions involving P500,000 or more are considered "suspicious" and the financial institutions are mandated to report the transactions to the council for investigation.

Lacson, in a statement, said the AMLC should have exercised caution so that the transactions were made during the campaign period when cash was in high demand.

"Although the AMLC has the power to do that [freeze the accounts], may I suggest it of the provision on the law that safeguards it against being used as a tool by political personalities during or after the election period," said Lacson, one of the principal authors of Section 10 of the AMLA which states:

"No case for money laundering may be filed against and no assets shall be frozen, attached or forfeited to the prejudice of a candidate for an elected office during an election period."

"I advise [AMLC Executive Director Yvonne] Seguia to review the law and take the necessary steps to correct this mistake of freezing these accounts. It is quite understandable for transactions involving the P500,000 threshold during an election period that will campaign funding requirements of candidates," Lacson said.

The AMLC reported it had frozen some May some P1.2 billion on suspicion the funds had come from illegal sources.

The elder Aquino said his office had received reports from banks and other financial institutions of an increase in the "suspicious" movement of money.

— Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Marlon Ramos

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2 anti-GMA generals back Trillanes probe

TRILLANES

From page A1

activists easily the policy of the military nowadays?"

Surprised by the question, Sergio cautiously replied: "No."

Sergio retired in July 2006 after serving as AFP chief of staff for a year.

The second source expressed fear that lower-ranking officers might get the impression that liquidating political activists and other perceived enemies of state was a ticket for promotion.

"The idea that these things are part of a government policy will only embolden them to kill even more," he warned during the interview.

Since 86 troops came to power in 2001, a total of 893 militant group leaders and members had been killed, according to the human rights group Karapatan. The documentation is 297.

Senate probe

Last week, Trillanes announced that he would call for a Senate inquiry into the rampant political killings, many of which had been blamed on rogue elements within the Armed Forces.

"Trillanes knows about the [political killings] already, but he doesn't have the details that we have yet," said the younger general.

The general accused of presiding his men as kill political activists was involved in other illegal activities as well, according to the two sources.

Earlier this year, they said the general visited a major Army camp in Luzon to campaign against Trillanes and antigovernment party-list groups, such as Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela.

"He was in the camp on at least three occasions, telling the officers there not to vote for these people," according to the older general.

Not letting go of Garci

Like Trillanes, the two Luzon sources said they were not also letting go of the "Hello Garci" controversy, which the Arroyo administration called the Mara na Budlanon Memorandum, which is believed to be used by the military to sell the group had secured Ansilio of having connections with the communist New People's Army (NPA).

Lt. Arnie Delfino, commander of the Army's 302nd Brigade based in Bicol, dismissed the accusation, claiming the gunmen was an ally of Ansilio. He said the motive was a personal grudge.

Delfino insisted that Ondo was not connected with the military.

Arnal, Bayan Muna regional coordinator, believed the killing was ordered by the military because of Ansilio's active role in organizing farmers and fishermen to oppose projects that would have initiated "peace" in Bicol, such as the oil exploration project in the Bohol-Cebu basin.

Perez said Ansilio had been going to Leni and Macapagal to discuss with fishermen their concerns about the upcoming seismic survey in the area.

Protests planned

"This is anger. We lost a wonderful leader on the occasion of Father's Day," lamented Diana Sta. of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), and in a statement.

Hindi rin lingid sa mata Anglo, the Mamalakaya chapter in Cebu, and other militant groups would stage protest rallies in Bohol to demand an investigation of Ansilio's killing, the immediate capture of the assailant and the prosecution of the mastermind.

With a report from JJ Pergueso in Manila

Bayan Muna leader dies from bullet wounds

From page A1

Ansilio was the 207th victim of extrajudicial executions since 2001, according to the Bayanan count. Leftist groups put the figure at more than 800, which includes victims of armed clashes.

Ansilio, of Barangay Tabigdasan, Trinidad town, had just finished a meeting with local fishermen at around 11:30 p.m. Friday in the public market of Ondo. Ondo town where he was shot earlier in the head and left arm by a lone assailant.

Police identified the gunman as 40-year-"Larry" Diola, of Tabigdasan, Ondo, who was at large.

Police John Gilbert Brenda of the provincial police said the gunman was identified by a witness, Evelyn Sanson, owner of the vehicle the assailant Ansilio was shot.

Military connection

But Bayan Muna maintained that Diola's "military connection could not be ruled out."

Police said Ansilio's shooting could be the work of an organized group.

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GSIS chief files libel suit vs solon

THE HEAD OF THE Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has filed a libel suit against Rizalista Rep. Benjamin Asumo Jr. for allegedly linking the agency to fund was being used to hundred-thousand Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia for the operation of the House of Representatives.

"Without any shred of evidence on hand, respondent Asumo issued the very grave allegations, all to malign the reputation of public funds, against [the] GSIS and the undersigned," Winston Garcia, GSIS president, said in his affidavit filed before the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

The GSIS chief is the son of the Cebu solon.

Asumo, a key ally of Speaker Jose de Venecia, is expected to file the latter's bid to oust the speakership.

"Shameful," "immoral" and "illegal" were just some of the adjectives Garcia used to cast aspersions on the motivations and timing" Garcia said in his complaint.

"In a premature bond on which no real public revenues only for their future maintenance, our continuing existence a built on trust," he said.

A similar accusation was made by a congressman of the older Garcia—against De Venecia himself.

The other was purportedly made to entice Sagunting into supporting Dr. Venecia's "legislative agenda," and he lost for a fifth term as Speaker.

Malaysia Filipino (Kampil), Ilie Garcia, earlier said he was offered a "lot somethin cloverly consuming

Christian E Esguerra

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Crime rising

THE OWNER OF THE MINDANAO BUS COMPANY bombed three times in the last two weeks believes a Misuari-sidanao-based gang of extortionists is behind the violence.

"It is the Nikolao' [gang] that has been extorting and threatening me. They were asking for P2.5 million before they set off the bomb in that bus in Banaslan," said Bonaventure Rabbitviros, owner of Weena Bus.

EDITORIAL

That bomb in Banaslan, Davao del Sur was the deadliest, when it went off last Friday, it killed eight persons and wounded at least 18 others. On the same day, another bomb ripped through another Weena bus, this time in Cotabato City. No one was hurt, but the bus was wrecked. On June 8, a bomb struck a parked Weena bus in Banaslan, North Cotabato, killing one person and injuring at least eight others.

All told, said Abelardo Gumilla, the bus company's operations manager in Davao City, at least 17 Weena buses have been hit in bomb attacks since 2002. Every single one was the work of extortionists, he added.

He should know: casualties for these attacks, simply because, is another member of the family that owns the company said, "it's company policy not to give in to extortionists' demands."

The company's firm stance is impressive; we worry for their passengers' safety and of course for the lives of their staff too, but we do realize that not surrendering to the extortionists is by far the harder decision to make.

We worry even more, however, that the Armed Forces is so fixated on theory it cannot focus on the facts. After last Friday's two bombings, a military spokesman immediately blamed Moro rebels allegedly affiliated with the Jemaah Islamiyah for the attacks.

Maj. Randolph Cabangbang of the Eastern Mindanao Command said a group headed by a certain Commander Abubakar, allegedly a "bet-commander" of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front with ties to JI, was involved in the attacks. It was extortion, Cabangbang said, but "the money is being used for terror."

He could, of course, be right. But jumping to conclusions does not exactly inspire confidence in his reasoning. Besides, the Armed Forces hasn't experts who are based at the Cotabato City headquarters of the Army's 6th Infantry Division have already investigated the Mindanao bombings: in their view, that attack did not have the JI signature. In the first place, the bomb-making was unsatisfactory, they said. Add to that Cabangbang's failure to include all the other attacks on Weena buses since 2002, and we end up expressing doubt, not certainty, about his conclusions.

Chief Supt. Gonzalo Lasa, deputy police director for Southern Mindanao, took the better, more prudent approach. "Unless our bomb experts establish the type of bomb used, we cannot link the attack to any group yet," he said.

Aside from fatal training for terrorists, what other possible motives are there?

Maybe, just maybe, defeated politicians are trying to recover their campaign expenses. This shouldn't come as a surprise: the link between organized crime and political ambitions is in some parts of the country as solid as a hold and chain. Think of looting, which came back with a vengeance in some areas in Luzon immediately last year, when it finally became clear that the May 14 midterm election were pushing through. Or think of kidnap-for-ransom gangs, which go on a spree in the months immediately preceding an official campaign period.

Maybe the attacks are related to the slow-moving peace negotiations between the government and the MILF. One party could be trying to jump-start the talks, while another could be trying to drain the battery.

Or, maybe, crime is really "back to normal," after the elections. While the official election period has a few more days to run, security forces in most parts of the country have already started to lower their alert levels. This creates an opening for criminal groups which may have lain low during the campaign.

Whatever the reasons, it is incumbent on the police to provide security experts (perhaps serving as on-board marshals) for Weena Bus; it is crucial that the AFP track down and neutralize Abubakar's lost command. It is important that police bomb experts in close consultation with the US-trained K-9 canine unit determine the make and provenance of the two other bombs; we hear, it is critical that the most important lead available, the naming of the Alkobar gang, be followed boldly and resolutely.

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GMA is cause of Team Unity's defeat

THE FIGURES IN THE CABINET GOVERNMENT-owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions are President Macapagal-Arroyo's answer to the core of her Team Unity's senatorial candidates. Heads will roll because all but two of her ten lost. Somebody has to pay for the humiliation. There has to be a scapegoat.

But will SSS, the one person in Mister Bo the mint? Her ally who has the fattest funds. All those who were close to her or have identified with her, too. The two TU candidates who won, Ed Angara and Juan Ponce, were not identified with her. They have had images of independent. Their entire senatorial since the TU slate only because GMA could not exercise enough of her close allies to run. Those allies were smart enough to know that their chances of winning were slim.

If you have a popular movie actress, whose many thought were rare women, Jesa. The rare fat, nothing of the opposition. The fans and Jesse Aquino-Orosa, were heavily re-tasted into the 20 voters when the Genuine Opposition did not include them in our newsletter. They lost re-unsurprisingly.

Let's face it, the senatorial election was a referendum on GMA's administration and the people told her clearly what they thought of her. The victory of two soldier-in-the-rebellion opponents—Gringo Honasan, who ran as an independent, and Jamaica Tolentino (who would have thought he would run?)—is a slap in her face. Both of those were not able to campaign as much as they would have liked because they were in detention on GMA administration.

Yes, it was GMA herself who was the cause of TU's overwhelming defeat. But she will never admit that. She has to have a scapegoat.

Besides, other noisy elections, there are many politicians—candidates who lose, politicians who helped in the campaign, financial contributors. The President has to give priority for all of them so they will remain allies. And so she

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Link to former columnists in the government

The most sought-after positions in the government are those in the corporations with the most money: the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System, and the forces such one of these all, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), besides of course the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. These are the most money-appointments for those officers who offer to work even with out pay provide why they want jobs there.

So wonder the five names mentioned as candidates for the chopping block were the heads of the BIR and the BOC. There are five no many powerful people salivating for their positions.

The President wanted to justified in kicking out the "non-performing stars". In her private conversations she must have told them to leave Callanta and the GOCCs. But how can she have the heart to relieve the heads of the three most efficient money-producers in her administration—the GSIS, SSS and Pagcor?

The GSIS, for example, has only has doubled its assets but it also headed by a son of Cebu, the province that gave GMA landslide victories in the last two elections, the son, in fact, of her own party's candidate for the governorship.

The SSS, too, is healthy after the last two administrations almost turned to the ground.

And Pagcor is one of the most profitable corporations in the country today. In fact, in the last years ago, its contribution to the revenue of private giants such as Ayala and Globe Telecom. It topped the list of biggest moneymakers in the country according to the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2003, and consistently remains in the Top 20 until now. It is the biggest source of non-tax revenue for the government.

Look at these figures: Last year, Pagcor beat all its previous records by earning P25.4 billion in total annual revenue and breaking monthly income records eight times. Last May, it claimed a total of P2.85 billion in net earnings, beating the highest ever record set in August 2006. No wonder so many people are hoping that it and Pagcor chief Efraim Genuino's feet been mentioned in one of those, who will probably get the ax.

But Genuino, like the heads of the GSIS and the SSS, is one of the best performing executive in the GMA administration. As in this ex-records, since he became chair in 2001, Genuino has been able to increase the corporation annual remarkably greatly, starting with a phenomenal 37 percent leap in income in his first year of office. Before his coach as a remarkable style of management, turning poor corporations and municipals monitoring are said to be among the things that Genuino introduced to the corporation.

He also looked into the working conditions of his employees and instituted their welfare and package of benefits. Your they say that Pagcor employees are among "the happiest people in government." Is this true?

* * *

Boy gets duped this Stella Cadawan is. The Philippine Mational Police just gave her three police bodyguards (against her husband who is not even here and who has a standing order not to be admitted into the country) as a reward for the PNP success in solving the alleged police extortion case by the rest of the Filipinos.

"We are ready to do for her," said a ranking police official. Wow! But isn't Stella and her family receiving more than enough to have their own security (guards instead of making cops serve as their slaves? Besides, her problem is of her own making for having two husbands at the same time.

Stop it

THE CALL OF THESE PEOPLE!

Only a couple of weeks ago, Benjamin Abalos was saying the exact opposite. He said the Magsaysay election results in Isabela and he suspected ejection of election officials. Commissioner Benjamin Bautista of course offered a long tirade by saying that doesn't the official position, that was just his chairman's opinion.

Then, Abalos' boss, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, also jumped in and he, too, said he shared Abalos' view that there was no evidence of election irregularities in Magsaysay. But he, too, is apparently not all that convinced that the official position of Bautista is the correct one. Ermita has directed the Commission on Elections to look into the matter.

Why the sudden change in the attitude of the Malacañang officials? Is it because they have been pressured by the opposition and by the media? Or is it because they have been pressured by the administration candidate who lost in Isabela?

Whatever the reason, it is incumbent on the Comelec to stop the confusion. Either it is satisfied that there was no cheating in Isabela or it is not. If it is not satisfied, it should not be afraid to say so. It should not be afraid to order the proclamation of Magsaysay's opponent stopped. If it is not satisfied, it should not be afraid to order the proclamation of Magsaysay's opponent stopped. If it is not satisfied, it should not be afraid to order the proclamation of Magsaysay's opponent stopped.

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THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Link to former columnists in the government

day, and Ryder's "Believe it or not" is cracked in twice. (I believe it, not me. As in Pacquiao-Farlaye and the use of the TV 12 having a more embarrassing and financial following in Mindanao than "Wowowee," that is a joke where the jokes should be telling only fellow natives in Mindanao. They can laugh their heads out there, so they have been.)

But the pre-nuptials, just over years ago. The dawning wasn't very promising, it was dawn at night in front of TV cameras. Talk of re-marriage. You believe in Bedol, you might as well believe in Lucio.

The solution is simple. Interpret the votes for senator as Magsaysay and Sotto spotted candidates for the local positions. The senatorial was cannot be allowed other than by a resolution showing that Robinson's Mga Talinis's absolutely worshipped as Magsaysay and Cayetano as Sotto's absolutely worshipped them.

Is that unfair to the local candidates who were without cheating? Possibly, but that is like the running mates. You have cheating in part, you have cheating in whole. You have to void the whole. I supposedly only those done by senatorial candidates were passed the non-leaked paste would get the tonight. It did go for tonight, when the UP nationalists walked with going working votes to senate abroad refused to give votes to our new new tax, it compromise breakfast to supplying doesn't work. Of course we have someone who did not vote the election evening as president wishes. But then only climbers are of interest. Those things do not work.

The only recourse the aggrieved have is to go after the senate, or those who made the cheating possible. But there's the rub. To this

Vote price

COMMENTARY

Orlito C. Godio
Atty. Gerardo Espina Jr. Chair

In the other end of the spectrum, the vote buying budget for a seat in Congress, the highest local position in town, is also possible to identify or estimate, assuming those seeking are one. A congressional seat sought 100,000 votes at P500 each, for example, would have needed P50 million for undisclosed campaign.

Candidates may never be sure whether those who received money from them actually voted for them. In fact, I know this is not a scientific sample, but some of my acquaintances voted for candidates whose money they received. It is therefore interesting why vote buying persists, despite this mixed hatred.

It helps to untangle the wizard determinants of the price of a vote in rural Philippines. On both the supply side and the demand side of the vote-cash exchange, the incentive structure is permissive.

On the vote supply side, poverty could be the prime incentive generator, because it induces people to sell the ballot. Poverty affects the price of a vote, by making a supply of votes available for purchase in the first place.

The studies I gathered suggest that vote price can be higher in first- and second-class municipalities than in more impoverished third- to fifth-class municipalities. This is counterintuitive, if one thinks that it would take less money to have someone destitute vote a certain way, while more would be needed to entice people of less economic desperation. If this is true, then trading poverty will alter and twist the ethic.

On the demand side, there are other drivers, Regardless of the class of municipality, prices for votes tend to shoot up when the contest is close between two rivals, and votes very low where candidates were unopposed or were a cinch.

Every voter's vote to win, a new candidate supposedly will claim forced cash-raising the campaign, just for the sake of boosting fence-sitters, and because he thought it would enhance the outcome. People expected that the pay would have been higher, though, had there been a determining rival.

In city municipalities, a candidate for Congress allegedly did not bother to distribute money "because there is no reason to vote for her here."

These accounts suggest that high or low certainty of victory, or of loss, can affect a candidate's buying price.

The power of incentives is also apparent in an interest of candidates who run on ideology, mounting in person-to-person money-giving allowance. For example, a candidate for municipal council hoped to promote clean elections. Just before he would tour if he did not hand out 20 pesos bills as his appearance did. The penalty for not playing by the rules is extreme. Thus, he ended up being sacked into the game, distributing money he even hated.

The rules are such that even the most upright people could engage in vote-buying. It is therefore imperative to think of this as the behavior only of weak and bad people.

Although the incentive structures is powerful, the exchange between voter seller and buyer is not a purely economic transaction. A candidate who expected to win still sprayed cash around, for example, because he or she was trying to satisfy people's expectations. There were expectations that have been set in a long series of past elections in which cash pay-offs were made for votes.

Vote price is therefore also embedded in the wider cultural framework and in historic dynamic history, the seeds cultural milieu and the manner of handing out the money. The rules, institutionalizing the practice of vote buying and influencing the price of votes.

The art of the possible in Latin America

WORLD VIEW

Bjorn Lomborg

Here's the good news: Latin America is growing, recently at once. So it is important to get an overview of how Latin America's answer financial sources would be used most effectively.

This October, together with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Copenhagen Consensus Center will host a conference—the Cartagena de Indias Summit—that will look at what can be done throughout the continent.

Of course, the region has seen many such well-meaning conferences. But this one will answer a unique question: if Latin America had, say, an extra $10 billion to spend, how should it be spent to improving society, which project would bring the greatest benefits? How much could be achieved if additional funds were spent on education, on making public administration more efficient, or on combating extreme poverty?

The Cartagena de Indias team will carefully examine these and other issues, ranging from benefits (are we the haters of the region's governments, a team of 30 regional specialists economists received chosen from Latin America and elsewhere will weigh up options and carefully consider the costs and benefits of the identified solutions.

The team consists of academics, including professors and Chilean Finance ministers Andrés Velasco, former Kansas Under-Secretary Howard Jose Antonio Ocampo, Harvard University professor and former Venezuelan Central Bank board member Ricardo Hausmann, and Nancy Birdsall, president of the Center for Global Development.

In discussions, the panel will present opinion-based list of the most promising solutions. Solutions in areas of participation and involve the region's former leaders, students from one of the top business schools in the region will weigh in. They will listen to the same experts on corruption, schooling, health and the environment, but will bring the perspective of youth to their deliberations.

Currently, Latin American policymakers and civil organizations spend money without the guidance of economic analysis or of opinion. As a result, they don't know whether their resources help the most people possible. This conference endeavors to the experts decide on to add value. It will then summarize the problems facing Latin America but, more importantly, it will draw attention to their solutions, while allowing decision-makers to focus on spending money on projects that do the most good.

Latin America is undergoing an exciting transformation. The Cartagena de Indias team may be able to help it maximize a future with fewer limitations.

Bjorn Lomborg, is the organizer of Copenhagen Consensus, adjunct professor at Copenhagen Business School and author of the new book "How to spend $50 billion to make the world better place." Read more about Consensus at his Web site at www.lomborg.org/www.copenhagenconsensus.com

Topsy turvy

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

JUST WHEN THE PRESIDENT FACES A MAJOR test—proving the first quarter economic numbers will be reflected not just in the second quarter but also in the third and fourth quarters or in other words, the rest of this year—her economic team is in disarray. The President, you will recall, had announced that the expected her appointees to submit their resignations. In a press briefing, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Presidential Management Staff ordered Cabinet members and the heads of "corporations" to submit their resignations by the end of September by the government, prompting Eduardo Deinnito to call the drawing of the deadline "a political maneuverable in timing."

Except that the timing begins to be bungled. Before the deadline the statement was clarified on Friday by Malacañang's spokesman Ignacio Bunye: "[all] to are the reward enough, the President has indeed asked for the courtesy resignations of top officials of government-owned and controlled corporations, including government financial institutions. However, she is not purporting to expand the coverage of the order to include members of the Cabinet currently incumbent."

The "clarification" was apparently inspired by Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who said, "There is no directive for Cabinet members to hand over their resignations. The financial market might react with hostility. I thought the assurance of Executive Secretary Ermita to immediately issue clarification. Not that the Cabinet is against it. But there is no such directive. All this, the order to DOLE and DPWhands to resign, to explain the Presidential directive to the Cabinet, to the deadline, to the evaluation of performances of key officials."

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya was more circumspect: "are are still clarifying if there will be a directive" on resignations, he said on radio. Media chief Ronnie Ong said he wouldn't resign, Favila said he wouldn't quit because no one had been ordered to quit, while Energy Secretary Raul Lambo was one to resign. "As a show of full support to the President, the Cabinet, Department Secretary Angelo Reyes, Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon, Jr. and other members of the Cabinet have submitted their courtesy resignations to the President effective today," Lambo said in a statement. "I am one with the President in her efforts to bring the country to greater heights."

Except that the Cabinet is apparently not one with the President in her efforts to bring the country to greater heights. Instead, it is one with the President in her efforts to bring the country to greater confusion. Why else would Lambo resign, when he is not even a member of the Cabinet? Why else would Favila say he wouldn't quit, when he is a member of the Cabinet? Why else would Andaya say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Why else would Ermita say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Why else would Bunye say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Why else would Ong say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Why else would Reyes say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Why else would Esperon say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Why else would Lambo say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Why else would Favila say he wouldn't resign, when he is a member of the Cabinet?

Irresponsible policy

LETTERS

WE SHOULD THANK PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL Arroyo for finally starting a serious discussion recently. What needs to be seriously discussed, now, is the population explosion in "developing countries" like the Philippines, which the Philippine government is unwilling to address.

Ironically, it was a Filipino, Rafael Salas, who was the first head of the United Nations Population Institute. He foresaw this problem of irresponsible population policy in developing countries and the inevitable war in global resources more than 30 years ago.

Without a responsible population policy countries like the Philippines would not have enough resources to feed its people. The only remaining option for the Philippines would be to send its daughters and sons overseas, as migrant workers.

—SEN GARGANTUA,
Ingal Intern, Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic
CUNY School of Law,
65-21 Main St., Flushing, NY 11355

Cockfighting a hobby, not a game for bullies

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE LETTER OF Rebecca S. Habib, an American citizen from Charleston, South Carolina, USA. (Inquirer, 6/14/07) She says cockfighting is for "bullies." Sadly, in any club society **anyone** can become one. Any sphere in from, somebody who perseverance or opportunity by force or by duress. I volunteer to disagree with her. I love cockfighting, though I am not a big bettor.

Silliest are us who take up the subjects for my countrymen and fellow cockfighting aficionados. Cockfighting has been in our beloved country since time immemorial. It is already part of our Filipino culture; it runs in our blood.

Cockfighting is legal here. As has, there are as many game fowl associations here—in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. Many people some have just to watch big shobies and enjoy it. Is it wrong to make people happy? Is it wrong to like cockfighting as a hobby, as I do? I bet Habib herself has her own hobby.

—DR. CHRISTIAN U. CANUTE,
Cabuu, Bataan

Mind-conditioning is Reli's business

SELI DUMAN DIGEST TELL the Inquirer what to say (Inquirer, 6/1/07)

What should we him a how a destructive administration put up a nominee candidate against him (Mayor Cayetano) when the right-incumbent can another franchise to sabotage Bobby's candidacy in 2007.

Supporting a war mind-conditioning. That is what Bobi and we voted in the, after Manny Ingdon was assassinated, in dealing with the grass-ots than powerful governments could be shocked. Despite the legislator of Marcos and his minions, it was the "mosquito-

pawa" which conditioned the minds of the people. It could not be clear we should have waited for the legal process of Marcos to die before speaking out.

Today's pro-administration mouthpieces and newspapers can try no condition any way they want and the people will decide. Indeed, Bobi's business is to condition brains and minds.

If anyone's worst instant resold in the free competition in the marketplace of ideas, he can petition for bankruptcy.

—RENE SALUDAR,
4445 Higanteng St.,
Poblacion, Makati City

MILF must make good on Bessi vow

IT IS GOOD TO HEAR THAT THE Moro Islamic Liberation Front is satisfied with the conduct of the peace negotiations. It is also heartening to hear the MILF's offer to help in locating and releasing Catholic priest Giancarlo Bessi, who was kidnapped by a group identified with the MILF.

Nothing can be more disturbing than news stories about prisoners being kidnapped. With such stories, all the gains we have achieved so far in the transition can quickly come to naught.

The release of Father Bessi's abductors was made more because of the failure of the media to point out that it happened on an extremely remote area in Mindanao. In fact, the giant cable, TV and radio networks have not made any distinction between peaceful Davao and the hilltop

area in Zamboanga Sibugay, two places that are about 600 miles from each other. By this failure, the media organizations are doing a disservice to Mindanao and the entire country.

We hope that the MILF will make good on his word about the release of Father Bessi and show the world that it does not countenance criminality. The MILF has to preserve its image and credibility not only for its sake, but also for the sake of Muslim Mindanao which once dreamt itself of the "kidnap capital" tag. One act of mercy and courage by the MILF will be one possible story that can reverse the negative impact of the news about Father Bessi's abduction.

And it will also be a big step to wind peace.

—EDGAR PEJAS,
ejpejas1960@yahoo.com

Automation only part of the answer

THIS IS IN REACTION TO THE letter "How to end electoral automation" written by Jojie Tugle Mendoza (Inquirer, 6/26/07). The problem lies not only in the election proper. Casting and counting of votes.

Days before election day or, simply said since precincts, during the voting period, even morning, harassment and election-related violence and anomalies are already taking place. So, even if the casting and counting of votes in the new elections would finally be automated, there will still be election-related disturbances.

But I do agree that the new elections should be fully automated. But when it's the new elections the same shenanigans we have today would still be used? Is the idea of a timeout the real law option for the sovereign Filipino people?

In the country's elections, Filipinos showed some sense of political maturity. I therefore think that they will not wait for the next elections before they do their part in ensuring a clean, honest and credible vote in 2010.

—EDGAR PEJAS,
74 Arellian St., Poblacion,
Mandaluyong City

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Across the NATION

MILF wary of priest as chief negotiator

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) said it was wary about an outsider taking over the role of the government's chief negotiator.

Jun Manzwell, head of the MILF peace panel secretariat, said the group respected Fr Eliseo Mercado Jr.'s ability but it was not sure if he would be given full authority to negotiate.

"The MILF leadership has the highest respect for Father Eliseo Mercado Jr. as a person, friend and as a priest but he does not possess the authority that a Cabinet member possesses, "he said.

Mercado, former president of Notre Dame University here, was named the new government chief negotiator following the resignation of Secretary Silvestre Afable Sorreta-Bello.

Misbaqhar Iqbal, MILF chief peace negotiator, called Afable's resignation as a "setback," saying that "changing horses in the middle of the stream" was a dangerous decision.

Mercado said he welcomed his appointment and that he believed that he could contribute to efforts aimed at resolving the decades-old Bangsamoro problem.

But Manzwell said the negotiation was a clear-cut "state matter," a "highly partisan" activity that "the chairman should not involve himself in."

He said the appointment of Mercado, a government outsider, was a "deliberate disregarding of the peace process."

Peace adviser Jesus Dureza said Mercado, an old experienced peace builder, would "bring about "a confident transition" in the changing of the guard in the government panel in the Malaysia-brokered talks scheduled to resume sometime in July.

"The assumption of Father Mercado as the new panel chair will ensure ... a smooth, unity in government efforts to move forward the peace process with the MILF," Dureza said.

But Manzwell said appointing a government outsider would also make the Malaysian facilitator uncomfortable.

"Datuk Othman bin Abdul Razak, the chief facilitator of the GRP-MILF peace talks, is of Cabinet rank being a special adviser to the Prime Minister of Malaysia," Manzwell pointed out.

"There is protocol in the negotiation that all the parties, especially the state actors, must follow," he said.

Manzwell pointed out that the peace talks between the government and MILF might be on the final stretch but the remaining issues were substantive ones that could potentially stall the process.

Mercado said there was nothing to fear because "the question of power is paramount."

He said his experience in peace-building efforts could help him in heading the government panel.

"It's a huge challenge but I know I can be of help," he said.

Fr Eliseo Mercado, superior of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Mindanao religious order, said he hoped the prior would get the support of various stakeholders in the Mindanao peace process.

"I believe he can contribute in efforts to achieve a genuine peace and land," Bello-Iqbal said.

Mercado was a member of the government panel that negotiated peace with the Nur Misuari-led Moro National Liberation Front. Edwin O. Fernandez and Carmelino A. Lucero III with a report from Agaton Devale, Inquirer Mindanao

Leyte bets told: Declare expenses

By Jerry A. Gabieza
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—The Commission on Elections in Leyte has called on candidates who won the May 14 elections to submit their statements of expenditures or face sanctions.

Based on the records of Comelec-Leyte, only 21 of the 40 candidates here filed their statements of expenses.

Among those who have yet to file statements of expenditures was reelected Gov. Jaime Petilla.

Petilla and the other candidates have 30 days after June 13 to file their statements of expenditures, according to lawyer Isidro Silo, Leyte's election officer.

The deadline for submission of the statements of expenditures was June 13.

Silo said failure to file the statement was punishable with fine or jail terms or disqualification from public office.

Comelec records said among the candidates who won elections in the province were congressmen of the first district, the remainder declared that he spent at least P600,000 for the campaign.

The other congressional candidates who submitted their statements of expenditures were reelected Representative Trinidad Apostol (2nd dist., 2007 L14) and Carmen Cari (5th dist., P215,000), and newly elected congressman Andres Salvacion (2nd dist., P396,516).

Daily reelected Rep. Sobrecito Codilla Sr. (4th dist) has yet to file his statement of expenditures.

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70-yr-old lawyer slain near his office

CALAMBA CITY—A 70-YEAR-OLD lawyer was gunned down by two hooded assailants outside a motorcycle in front of his law office in Barangay Bucal, this city, on Saturday night, police said.

Supt. Roland Bayena, city police chief, said Dominador Ollibres, 70, of Barangay Real in this city was about to open the gate of his law office near the public market at around 7:45 p.m. when the assailants came and shot him several times at close range.

Concerned residents rushed the lawyer to the Calamba Medical Center where he later died.

Police said a .45 cal. pistol could have been used in the killing.

Bayena said the victim and his wife, Imelda, had just attended Mass at the nearby St. John the Baptist Church before the attack.

He said Imelda was still in a state of shock.

The lawyer might have been killed as a result of cases he was handling.

Bayena said police would review the cases that Ollibres was handling to find leads in the investigation. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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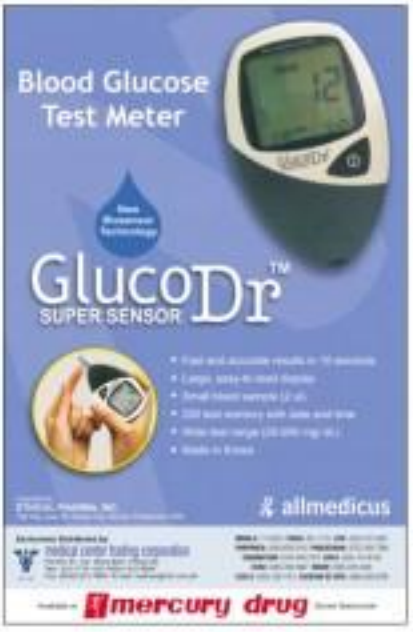


ART WORK This item is one of dozens of works done in clay that are sold to a number of shops along the highway in Bantaoay, Davao del Sur. The area is starting to find a new identity as a center for clay pottery. SEE P. 20

Wave of bombings forces company to stop bus trips

By Orlando Dinoy
Inquirer Mindanao

BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR—The management of Weena Bus Co. has decided to temporarily cease operations following the wave of bomb attacks that targets of its buses, a company official said yesterday.

The latest were the bomb explosions aboard Weena Bus No. 1104 here and an air-conditioned bus in Cotabato City that killed eight and injured 10 others on Friday.

The military has said rogue Moro rebels with links to the Abdullah Sanjaah were behind the attacks on Weena, but police said an investigation was still being conducted.

Abelardo Castilla, Weena operations manager based in Davao City, said since 2001, at least 17 of their more than 200 buses were damaged in the bomb attacks, which he blamed on extortionists.

Castilla said the firm decided to suspend operations to press authorities to adopt tighter security measures to protect not only their units but also the lives of passengers.

Weena, which is owned by the Valderrama family, is the lone bus company that services the Davao-Cotabato route, one of the most important links among the central, northern and southern Mindanao regions.

The suspension of the bus company's operations was seen as a setback in economic activities in the region.

Castilla said the company never stop talking with authorities for the adoption of more stringent security measures.

Chief Supt. Orlando Yaque, Central Mindanao police director, said intelligence were ready to be deployed when informed of the bus company's decision to suspend operations.

Although Bansalan is part of Southern Mindanao, the Central Mindanao police office was helping in the investigation because the explosion allegedly made the bus from Kidapawan City in North Cotabato.

Senior Insp. Sherwin Buiz, chief of the Bansalan police, said the results of the investigation on the cause of the bomb that exploded here on around 8 p.m. on Friday had yet to be released.

At least six CIS bomb experts were helping their Filipino counterparts in trying to determine the composition of the bomb.

One of the bus passengers told the Inquirer that the black backpack left by a male passenger near the bus contained sand and ketchup containers.

Buiz said the exact make of the bomb could help limit possible the group behind the explosion.

A similar investigation of the June 8 explosion in Matalam, North Cotabato, which was conducted with the help of US bomb experts, established that extortion, and not Islamic militants identified with the JI, were responsible.

The US experts described the bomb that exploded at the Matalam terminal as "the work of amateurs."

Based on police findings, the bomb was fashioned out of TNT and black powder.

Most bombs used by JI-linked militants in their attacks were made out of metal shells. *With reports from Edwin Fernandez and Joselito Bonilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

New vice mayor's arrest sought for estafa cases

By Gabriel Cardenas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—A JUDGE HAS ordered the arrest of the newly elected vice mayor of Asingan town for allegedly defrauding a businessman and her sisters and son-in-law some P82,228 advances in the last two years.

Aside from Asingan vice mayor-elect Rito Antonio, Judge Jesus Carandang of the regional trial court in Urdaneta City ordered the arrest of Antonio's daughter, one of Antonio's associates, after both were charged with large-scale estafa.

The bail was recommended for Antonio and Dagupito. Police failed to find them in their last known addresses in Binmaley, Pangasinan and Tobin in Asingan for work.

The complainant, Lois Dagupito, said she met Antonio three years ago through a niece. At that time, she said, she was told that Antonio was looking for financiers for her land deal with Ayala Land (PCOR).

Antonio was supposedly consolidating parcels of prime commercial land at Barangay Nantapaan in Urdaneta that were to be bought by the company.

Thinking it was a good business venture, Dagupito said she invested P1.8 million. But her sister, Irene Bautista, turned out to be the biggest investor—with P52,274,800. Her other sisters, Leticia Domingo and Petronila Mercado, had investments of P700,000 and P660,000.

Dagupito's son-in-law, Eric Mabanta, invested P183 million. Dagupito said the money was personally given to Antonio and her associates. Dagupito, Mrs. Bautista and Dona Antonio.

"[We] deposited them in the bank accounts of Pedro de Guzman (Antonio's lawyer), Teresita Antonio and Leo Cunanan (Antonio's fiancée, partner)," Dagupito said in a sworn statement before the special task force office of the National Bureau of Investigation.

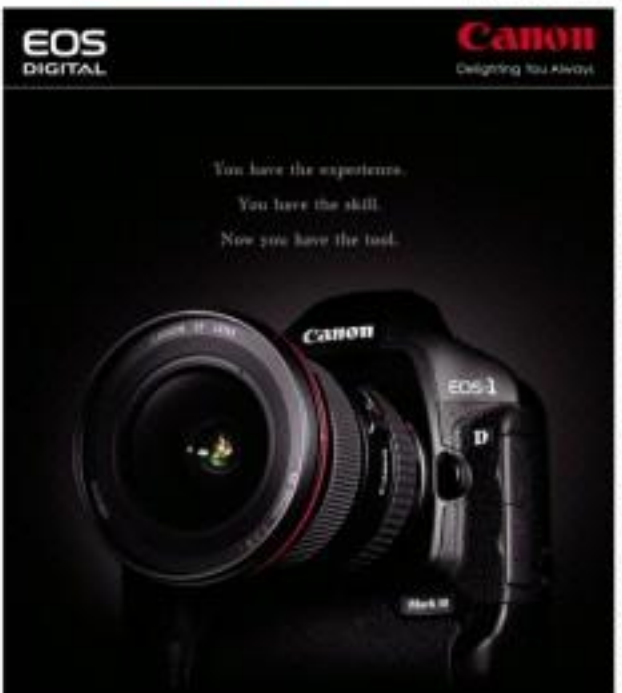
Dagupito also cited the dates and banks where she deposited their investment from Oct. 19, 2000 to Feb. 20, 2002.

She said it was only in March when the came to know that investments had deceived them.

"The Bureau of Internal Revenue receipt allegedly paid by Mr. [sic] for the subject lots was not true ... We also came to know that Mr. is allegedly paid taxes of the subject lots to BIR Asingan in the amount of P6,312,050 but we came to know that the receipts did not exist," Dagupito said.

Dagupito and her sisters and Dona Guzman, Antonio's lawyer, had told them that he was never with Ayala Land and "denied all representations told to me by Antonio."

On April 18, Ayala Land representatives informed them that the deals and her cohorts are out, and have more time part of the deals organization, but have they are been accredited by our sales force."



Results of Antique polls still hanging

By Nestor F Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

SAN JOSE, ANTIQUE—THE SPECIAL board of canvassers has yet to declare the election winners in this province although it suspended the proclamation set on Friday.

The board of canvassers suspended its session at around 7 p.m., three hours after it started, after former lawmaker Jesus Arturo Pacificador questioned the legality of the appointment of a new board and its composition.

Pacificador submitted a petition at the start of the session claiming that the composition of the board was illegal because it violated the Omnibus Election Code on who can be appointed as members of the provincial board of canvassers (PBOC).

He questioned the appointment of Commission on Elections assistant regional director Teresa Valero, as assistant chief of the board, and Iloilo provincial elections supervisor Elma Jane Hernandez as the board's secretary.

Election laws limit the choice of the PBOC members to the provincial auditor, register of deeds, clerk of court and any other appointed provincial official, he said.

The Comelec's first division on June 7 directed the previous PBOC and created the new one, chaired by Comelec regional director Renato Magbanua.

The Comelec also ordered the resumption of canvassing of votes and the proclamation of winning candidates of the province.

Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez led her opponents based on election returns from the province's 16 municipalities with 84,867 votes.

Pacificador got 53,582 votes while former Pamorama governor Exequiel Javier got 54,062 votes.

Pacificador questioned why only the two divisions decided on the dissolution of the previous board and not the formation of a new one instead of the commission en banc.

"This board should not continue and proclaim as winner any candidates," Pacificador said in an interview.

The new PBOC issued a ruling during the session declaring Pacificador's petition, it said the first division had the authority to decide on the issue.

It also said that Pacificador should have directed his petition to the Comelec head office in Manila, which appointed the new PBOC.

While the new board dismissed Pacificador's petition, it decided to suspend its proceedings because of his threat to appeal the ruling.

"The composition of the board is being questioned; it is now constituted to proceed (the canvassing and proclamation of winners," Magbanua said.

He said that the board members' acts could be declared illegal if they continue with the proceedings.

Under election rules, Pacificador has five days to file an appeal. If he does not appeal, after which the Comelec will have seven days within its own days, Magbanua said.

But Governor Perez's legal counsel, Guillermo Atienzara, said the board should not have entertained Pacificador's petition.

"They should have proceeded with the canvassing and proclamation because they have no authority to resolve the legality of their appointment as PBOC," Atienzara said.

Perez said she would ask the Comelec in Manila "to call or discipline" the members of the new PBOC for failing to proclaim the winning candidates.

"The people of Antique are already exasperated why the winning candidates have not been proclaimed until now" the governor said in a press conference after the board suspended its session.

KITONE
LUBRICATION EQUIPMENT

FACILITY INTEGRATED SYSTEM

ROUNDUP

3 killed in Bulacan bus robbery

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Three persons were killed by armed men who robbed passengers of an Ilocos-bound bus on the national highway in Barangay Salapat on June 8, police said. Supt. Wenceslao Lopez, town police chief, said the robbery, armed with .45 cal. pistols, boarded the Victory Liner bus at Bocaue, Bulacan, at 9:45 p.m. (Pilar Pallarca)

After the bus reached the Ilocos Norte town, Lopez said the robbers killed Raoul Campano, Reljohn Ramos and Eighbert Obeng. A fifth bullet wounded Isabel Adonjo, 50. After the robbers alighted, the bus driver, Arnel Salbo, brought the victims to the Good Samaritan Hospital in nearby Sapang City. (Jonnalie Obispo, Inquirer Central Luzon)

Japanese found dead

VALENCIA CITY—Police have in custody suspect in the May 29 shooting of Hidetsugu Takahashi, of Wonderful City. The Japanese was found dead with a bullet wound to the head by Sto. Niño police Barangay Tagbakid, where he was shot on May 14, inside their apartment in Barangay Poblacion at about 2 a.m. City police chief Supt. Raul Cleaver said the lack of witnesses was making the investigation difficult. (Judith Mabini, Inquirer Mindanao)

New bridge in Bangkerohan

DAVAO CITY—Despite the loss of the administration's Team Unity here, Malacañang insisted that a bridge project to replace the Governor Generoso Bridge I in Bangkerohan district.

Traffic between Bangkerohan and Matina has worsened because of the bridge's age. What used to take 15 minutes by a trip from Matina Crossing to Bangkerohan now takes about 45 minutes. (Jude Sabio, Inquirer Mindanao)

Mall supervisor shot dead

CABANATUAN CITY—A mall supervisor was killed while a pedestrian was wounded in a shooting on Monday.

Adolfo Obligacion, 41, suffered bullet wounds inflicted by a .45 cal. pistol-wielding assailant at the Nueva Ecija Gateway mall. Police Senior Insp. Wally Cenzon, city police spokesperson, said Hadja Fatima Kasulo was wounded by a stray bullet. Cenzon said the two gunmen killed Obligacion from his workplace at about 6:15 p.m. and identified one as Dennis Pantoja. (Edwin B. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao)

Tabuk cityhood plebiscite

MANILA, Kalinga—A plebiscite to ratify the cityhood bid of this capital town has been set for June 23.

Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr. said the town's pop. 76,186 as of 2000 census presents to become a component city of Kalinga as officials had long planned to set up a regional center for trade and commerce here.

The cityhood bid is contained in measure No. 9404, which was enacted on March 23.

An agricultural town covering 107.7 hectares, Tabuk is classified as a first class municipality (annual average income of at least P60 million) and is considered the province's rice granary. Lammawin said the local government had set aside P2.5 million to fund the plebiscite. (Norlan Eduria, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

Worker hurt in landslide

CEBU CITY—A construction worker was injured in a landslide on Wednesday in Busilac, a mountain barangay here.

Nenan Jumalinao, 30, was brought to North General Hospital in Talamban by paramedics and security guard Antonio Rongcal in the city proper.

William Ritts, executive editor of the Cebu Daily News and Cebu Broadcasting Council, said Jumalinao and seven others were working on a riprap project within the compound of a private school, Maria Evangelista School, when the soil caved in.

Jumalinao was reportedly buried, but his companions immediately dug him up. (Norman Bajenting, Inquirer Visayas)

3 new priests

SAN PABLO CITY—Bishop Leo M. Drona of the San Pablo Diocese will ordain three deacons to the priesthood in a solemn rite celebration to be held at the San Pablo Cathedral on June 16, 10 a.m.

To be ordained to the Order of Presbyter Leo Rex Reglos II, Bryan S. Bravo, 43 of Nagcarlan, Laguna; Rev. Father M. Lima, 32 of Rizal; and Rev. Manuel O. Mangigo, 34 of Mercedes, Calauan, Laguna.

Now more candidates who completed graduate schooling from theological schools and universities are preparing for their diaconate ordination within six months as required by Canon Law. (Ronald B. Pasilo, Inquirer Southern Luzon)

Laguna to honor Rizal

SAN PABLO, Laguna—Through a commemoration signed on June 8, Governor Lourdes Sanchez Alonte of Barangay Sta. Ana, Alaminos, declared June 19 as a special non-working holiday in Calamba City, the hometown of national hero Jose P. Rizal, and in the entire province.

The declaration would give residents time and energy to commemorate the 146th birthday of Rizal. (Ronald Pasilo, Inquirer Southern Luzon)

21 nabbed for illegal fishing

ALAMINOS CITY—Police and volunteers arrested in separate incidents at least 21 people from Anda and Bani town on charges of illegal fishing in the waters off the city.

Mayor Hermenegildo Fajardo said 14 suspects, who were from Anda, were operating a baby trawler using fine-mesh nets, which are considered illegal fishing gear, in the waters off Tabuyoc and Victoria villages on June 8.

Fajardo said the suspects also were hauled into a protected seagrass bed.

Police seized 184 kilograms of assorted fish worth P1,000 from the suspects. (Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

Chinese-Filipino Friendship Day

SAGAY CITY—The city celebrated the Chinese-Filipino Friendship Day last week to coincide Chinese-Filipino relations that date back to the pre-Hispanic era.

"We are celebrating not only a relationship (forged out of historical facts) made centuries (ago) but more so a spirit of friendship," said Councilor Edilberto Sinsuat during a welcoming dinner on June 9.

Local historians say Chinese traders had been trading porcelain jars and other chinaware with traditionally mined ignorot gold before the Spaniards came.

"Maganda na rin kagaya ni Rizal (for Chinese-Filipino," said Mayor Reynaldo Rafanlan Jr. He said the city's economy developed with the help of the Chinese who, along with Japanese and other foreigners, stayed after building Asturias Sugar Inc. early 1900s. (Rambo Malaluan, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

Fire destroys house of new mayor

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three people died in the small hours of Sunday, Barangay, as Barangay when a fire razed several seven-storied residential units and houses in the town proper, including the house of its incoming mayor.

Insp. Ferdinand Yan Mamaia, spokesperson of the Barangay fire department, said the fire started at around 1 p.m., from an abandoned house in Barangay Poblacion.

Because most of the houses in the area were made of wood, the fire quickly spread and engulfed at least two commercial buildings, he said.

The fire also destroyed the house of newly elected Mayor Benigno Hernandez.

Mamaia said the local fire station needed the help of five fire trucks at least seven neighboring towns to put out the fire at around 9:30 p.m.

Mamaia said that although no one was hurt in the fire, an employee of outgoing Mayor Antonio Chua died after he accidentally slipped on the floor of his house while trying to rush to the house of the mayor to inform him about the Hon. Marites Barrera. (Inquirer Southern Luzon)

Comelec affirms Bogo is now 6th city of Cebu

By Jolene R. Balumbos
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—FROM FIVE COMPO-nent cities, the province now has six after the Commission on Elections proclaimed Saturday night the conversion of the municipality of Bogo into a city.

The former agricultural town in northern Cebu held a plebiscite on June 16. About 60 percent of 40,278 registered voters cast their ballots.

Republic Act No. 9371, which legislated its upgrade to a city, immediately took effect after the proclamation, making June 18 as the Charter City of Cebu's component city.

"The residents of Bogo have spoken through the plebiscite and now Bogo is officially a city," he said.

Other component cities of Cebu are Danao, Toledo, Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue and Talisay. Cebu City is chartered as a highly urbanized city and independent from the province of Cebu.

Bongao said 24,488 out of the total number of registered voters cast their votes on Saturday. A total of 23,950 voted "yes" while 482 voted "no" in Bogo's city hood.

Rep. Clavel Ayes-Martinez (4th District) filed the bill in 1999 but it was only in January 2006 that it became law.

Outgoing Bogo Mayor Celestino Martinez II told the Inquirer that the proclamation of Bogo's cityhood was a "dream come true and an achievement" that the residents had been waiting for the past nine years.

Bogo City is composed of 29 barangays with a population of 88,000 and with an internal revenue allotment of P38 million, Martinez said.

Mayor-elect Celestino Martinez II, the father of the outgoing mayor, said that crafting the new city's master plan would be first on his agenda of his assumption to office.

The elder Martinez, a former congressman in the fourth district, said Bogo City would be Cebu's center for trade and commerce and an economic gateway to Bantay, Leyte, Bilaliran and nearby provinces.

Provincial election supervisor Lionel Marie Castillano said the conduct of the plebiscite was quiet although Mayor Martinez said his rival, businessman Reuben Labungcos.

Two units from the Special Reaction Unit from the Cebu Provincial Police Office supervised the plebiscite.

Castillano and Comelec Manila was still selling aside the 18 election returns pending a hearing scheduled for June 26.

Martinez and Labungcos later expressed acceptance of political fraud, prompting the local board of canvassers to stop the canvass and bring the IDs to Manila for technical evaluation.

A BOY walks on runway of the old Iloilo Airport that closed down after 70 years of service, paving the way for the operations of a new one. The runway of the old airport has become a virtual playground for children.

PHILIP KUNG/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Advantages of open skies seen at Cebu air travel meet

By Irene B. Gino-Cruz
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—BUILD THE OPEN SKIES FULL or would have adversely affect operations of local airline companies, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, some industry stakeholders said.

The open skies policy is an aviation principle that allows foreign airlines to operate unlimited services in another country. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) agreement would initially apply on routes between Asean capitals and would later expand to other cities.

Inspiron for one, now panches, discussing open skies during the Cebu Business Month luncheon meeting, favored the policy. The meet was held at the Cebu International Convention Center in Mandaue City.

Avelino Zapanta, president and chief executive officer of Seaair, maintained that the Philippines had to adopt this policy to be able to catch up with other Asian countries.

Zapanta recalled that when he was still with Philippine Airlines, the company introduced air travel to Vietnam.

"We might then to fly and now they are way ahead of us. Do you see for you country enough are don't want to see a lagging behind?" he asked.

Jose Alexander Robert Cain Jimenez, chair of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies and the Travel Corporation of the Philippines.

Zapanta noted that the Philippines would have to comply with the open skies policy scheduled for implementation in 2008 as agreed by Asean members.

He said the Philippines should implement open skies "because closing up could prepare us (the Philippines) for being crippled."

Joseph told the congress participants that he was not opposing liberalized air policies or even open skies, "provided it is reciprocal and there is fair exchange between contracting parties."

"I am against unilaterally granting seven rights to foreign airlines without clear guarantee that their governments would grant the same concession to Philippine carriers," he said.

Unless the volume of passenger traffic is huge, Joseph said, the foreign airlines would not come over and would not open skies policy.

But Nicholas Lim, president of Asia Pacific Flyers Inc., noted that the open skies policy is either once resulted in increased flights and passenger traffic. But she said the government had to monitor the policy's implementation to prevent any abuses.

Cathay Pacific Airways manager Eddie Sung maintained that open skies policy would boost the tourism industry.

Zapanta urged the Civil Aeronautics Board to allow the small airlines to implement their respective plans to prepare for open skies.

"Our main regulatory bodies are hesitant on give our carriers a head start for the Asean open skies in 2008," he added.

Cops nab militant farmer for old slay try charges

CHRISTINE LIM
Laguna—Another leftist who belongs to the militant group Bayan Muhbuhal ng Pilipinas (BMP) was arrested by police for two frustrated murder charges filed several years ago in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, on Friday, police said.

Senior Supt. Andre Arroyo, Occidental Mindoro provincial director, said Eugelio Blanquez, 37, was fleeing his hotel trailer when he was seized by members of the 203rd Police Provincial Mobile Group (PPMG) at around 11 a.m. in Sitio Antena, Barangay Balong.

Blanquez is the fourth militant arrested by police and military agents for charges filed a number of years before.

Carl Ala, BMP spokesperson, had reported that Blanquez was abducted.

Blanquez is a member of Alyansa ng Magsasaka sa San Jose, an affiliate of Kamulatan ng mga Magsasaka sa Kanlurang Mindoro, the provincial chapter of BMP, he said.

"Government authorities have no legal basis to hold our colleague. They better release Blanquez now or we will be forced to press charges against those who took him," Ala said in a mobile phone interview.

But Arroyo said Blanquez was arrested based on warrants issued by Mamburao Regional Trial Court Judge Inocencio Jacquio for two counts of frustrated murder.

Arroyo said the incident was one of several seen who figured in a gunfight between government troops and suspected rebels in Occidental Mindoro a few years ago.

When asked if Blanquez is a member of the New People's Army, he replied, "We will connect (all) if he is indeed an NPA, we are still conducting an investigation."

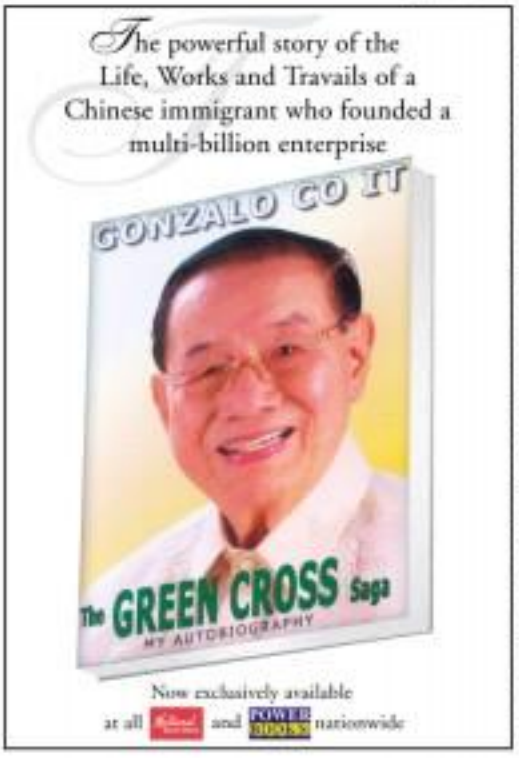
Asked how Blanquez was included in the case, he answered: "I really don't know anything about the case because it was filed before I was appointed provincial director."

Arroyo, however, insisted that the subject of the farmer was covered by legal documents.

"There were arrest warrants for him. How can that be abduction? That's only an allegation of his colleagues from the leftist groups," he said over the phone.

Alexius Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEFTIST protesters rally in front of Camp Crame to denounce the abduction of their leaders.



GO lawyer warns poll body on fake vote tallies

From page A1

Zaldy's ass crashing.

"There were reports that the municipal COCs (certificates of canvass) were being installed, which is not surprising if you, considering the time that has passed since the elections," Bellaflores told the Inquirer by phone.

Bellaflores said that to manipulate 22 municipal COCs (MCOC), or vote tallies, for the 22 town of Maguindanao would be different but noted that a month had passed since the May 14 elections and "there were plenty of time."

He said there would be "no unnecessary misadjustment" documents" to be accomplished, including statements of votes and election returns per precinct.

"The operations [of Maguindanao provincial COC during] a 12-6 sweep by Team Unity."

Sketchy numerical candidates, some of them from MCOCs, started to appear—which shallow himself had said was "statistically improbable."

Bellaflores said the possibility of having false municipal COCs was one of the reasons the opposition had vehemently opposed the transfer of custody of election returns to Maguindanao to stay for itself if there were available election documents that could be used to reconstitute the specific provincial board of canvassers.

GO's solution

"If there were MCOCs in the first place, there should have already been sent to Manila when the national board of canvassers asked for them to be tabulated by the special provincial board of canvassers," Bellaflores said in Filipino.

Bellaflores also took note of the report of Maguindanao provincial election supervisor Lanang Bedol that "the boxes [containing the] files in his possession had been stolen from his office.

"If the Comelec finds MCOCs, which could have been manufactured, and use these as chaff for the new proclamation of [Esmael] Sangkay [as governor]," Bellaflores said.

He said GO would oppose the reconvening of the provincial COC using the municipal tallies that the Comelec might find in its respective Maguindanao.

Bellaflores expressed GO's position. Datukan Maguindanao from the canvassing of the ministerial results.

"If Maguindanao is excluded, Zaldy's still lose," Bellaflores said.

Either Kuhol or Pilgs

Based on the Comelec's latest official tally—without the Maguindanao canvass—Pimentel is ahead of Zaldy by more than 113,000 votes.

Bellaflores said that if the results of the questionable Maguindanao provincial tallies were tabulated, Zaldy would decisive Pimentel by more than 120,000 votes.

A photograph of the Maguindanao COC shown to reporters had Zaldy with 190,323 votes in the province against Pimentel's 67,977 votes.

In a report sent to its national headquarters in Manila and to foreign partner organizations, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) protested the "irregular and elections were conducted behind in Maguindanao."

Its report, however, covered only six of Maguindanao's 22 towns.

PPCRV lawyers chief Henrietta de Villa confirmed that Fr. David Pascella, the PPCRV's local coordinator in Cotabato City and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, had sent a report to Manila stating that elections were held in Maguindanao on May 14.

But De Villa told the Inquirer by phone that the PPCRV was able to observe elections only in six Maguindanao municipalities, including controversial Pagalungan town.

No watchers

It was in Pagalungan that many school teachers and parents united there said the ballot boxes in their possession and filled out the ballots with the names of the TI candidates.

De Villa said the PPCRV and its partners were able to enter the polling precincts in Pagalungan, Buluan, Datu Piang, Datudalon pan, Mandiff Ignok and Sultan sa Barongis.

But De Villa said that even if the volunteers were able to enter the polling places, they were not allowed to observe the canvassing of votes.

"For the canvassing, none at all, we were not allowed inside," she said.

Moreover, the certificates of votes from the polling precincts they were able to monitor were assigned by the board of election inspectors (BEIs).

The added that the BEIs and even the Comelec election officers prevented the PPCRV volunteers from entering the polling places in the other Maguindanao towns despite the group's Comelec accreditation.

De Villa said the council was able to observe the elections in the six towns because of its partnership with a Bangsamoro civil society group and Ambuel, a Iaqin observers' group.

ABALOS

Datumanong's formula

The provincial chapter's report hardly mentioned the marching of 10 ballot boxes in four helicopters in Pagalungan but did not mention anything about gunmen filling out the ballots themselves, or having teachers or BEIIers out.

Pascella, during a talk with the Inquirer, said the PPCRV's network of local organizations, as well as those from Ambuel, deployed volunteers in the towns of Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Buluan, Datudalongpoy, Sultan sa Barongis and Pagalungan in Maguindanao, and in Parang, Kabia, Buldon, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Mastura and other areas of Shariff Kabunsuan.

In his report, the PPCRV's provincial network said getting poll volunteers in some Maguindanao towns "was more among some individuals ... given the reality that in this province, only by the leaders decide where the people should vote first, and only a few dares to disobey or defy—one risk and more if not their lives."

It also cited fund shortage as another reason for the difficulty in getting volunteers.

Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong said the Comelec could not just set aside the vote cast in the province because its commissioners could have an improbable offense by violation of voters' rights.

Datumanong supported Datudalongpoy's proposal that the Maguindanao canvass continue.

- Go to the Supreme Court on the issue of special elections.
- Be back to personal appearance of canvassing poll tallies which could be a matter of long process.
- The Comelec en banc meeting at the National Board of Canvassers constitute itself into a task force to canvass election returns from the 22 towns.

2 lessons from the trenches

From page B1

were beat her family, Julie from Bulacan ed in Sept. attackers with their four young children as she listened to her husband Michael, 37, comrade-in-blind.

"I wanted to ease the tension on the ground and declare my notion that there may be illegal acts committed to attain my victory," Miss Deficiente of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers Party (ACT) said.

"I wanted us as to express my allies and friends who may want in their desire to have no win, commit acts inimical to the essence of democracy and for play in an election," she said. "I only wanted to tell them my family and I want my children to learn that there is honor in defeat. I think all those who helped me until the campaign, we tried our best and we have no regrets. It was all worth it," he added.

"Of course, I feel bad, but that's politics—you win some and lose some. I take full responsibility for my defeat. My family and supporters deserve to know the truth," Deficiente said.

"The last two weeks of canvassing and monitoring have been grueling to me and my family. The tension, anxiety, and the waiting have taken a toll even on my children, who have suddenly included my victory in their night prayers. My wife and all my children campaigned for me like there was no tomorrow, from the early hours of the morning till late at night of the night. With that, I tried literally—to the core."

Then he addressed himself to the third person, as if there was a second Mike Defensor in the room, and told Defensor the unofficial condolence that the President's chief of staff: "I am sad. Armed that he would not be part of the 14th Congress. My constituents advise to him to re-appoint himself, show his independence from President Arroyo. He deserves to be seen as more than an apologist for the President."

Defensor, however, declined, he lamented to add: "My defeat is not the President's fault."

Then, having made peace with everyone else, he made peace with himself: "God has the prerogative to enlighten [God's] will. My only prayer is that, after all this is done, we reconcile as a people, heal the wounds of the past, and work together in building this nation. I concede. May you and your family be blessed."

Then his mood changed. Mike Defensor said he would drive his kids to school for a rest. But now, there is a more urgent task: he will proceed to the valet his kids to Disneyland, and it was time to fulfill that promise.

There is also honor in keeping a promise. He would also take it due to his kids—if that was the last thing he would do.

Home is the sailor

As his face grew even flushed, Ralph Recto, 43, delivered his valedictory to the Senate:

"I'm not sad. I'm not sorry except the will of the people. But this has not stalled finally upon us this time. The outpouring of votes is important and sincerely aspires and but we strengthen ourselves in the days to the country," he told his fellow senators on the day the first of the 13th Congress.

"It is a symbol I accept without rancor or bitterness," he added.

"I am grateful that 14 million of my fellow citizens expressed belief in my abilities to represent them. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every one of you for the trust you have to posed in me, including the 22 men and women there who voted my name on the ballot.

"I will gently go out of this institution, comforted in the thought that every walking day that I had served all my mandate, I did it to the best of my ability, and always with the best interest of the country in mind.

"If I will not sing as a footnote in history, I shall be blissfully content being remembered as one who chose principles over popularity, and did what was right rather than what was expedient."

Following in close succession of the night's unpopular-rejected votes added ten into Recto said the period is to remembered as the one who didn't talk to cult fashion but who did to open new possessions against the gale of public opinion. Out of the lulled, like sailors of yore, that one can only really progress if he loses sight of the land.

"The duty of a member of this chamber is not to pander to what is popular, but to uphold what is right, a senator who came before us said," Recto continued, referring to his grandfather, the late Sen. Claro M. Recto.

"This is true, otherwise those who will sit in this chamber will be a homage to counter opinion, too, depending on where the political wind blows, where duty or special influences to run both."

The grandfather pointed out people-sake politics, and that neoliberal issuing contrary opinions, often popularity contest, otherwise known as partisan politics is a candidate to take the other course to a more meaningful life. It is to say what everybody is thinking but is the hollow with the names of the

Recto said he looked forward to "second and simple joys you'll do as driving my kid to school, talking bets out swimming, losing bet putting skills, or going with him to the mall."

The pronoun he did had seemed the set, battle cry. "To Peter?"—and No song mind was unable to comprehend how he finally in person—to make our acquaintance—could use so unremarkable in the elections. Recto said he would keep trying to explain life's journey to his son as life unfolds.

Then Recto climbed through his last bus before emotions choked his words: "To the love of my life, who [has] stood by me through thick years, whose pet and gentle continue to inspire and inspire me, now I can say, Honey, I'm home."

Recto, a Batangas Governor, don't Elisa Santos. Trying to hold back her tears, she was told "I know deep in my heart how much my wanted to serve my country," she said in her speech.

She warned that because she had run against the incumbent governor of Batangas, the reservation of provincial governors had made good the threat to dump her husband. It was [his or the ES-VAT, or both.

Then, perhaps realizing her husband was coming home, she walked away and waved good bye. She had begun to smile again.

Another casualty

Former Sen. John Osmeña of the Lakas-Kampi Opposition 2004, who had been ousted from Recto in the senatorial race, was in an introspective mood. Early in the campaign, he had been in the single-digit 12, albeit lower-to-the bottom, but he wanted to improve his position because it was not safe where he stood.

Being his usual humorous, he figured, that TI's result advertised "remained votes" would be worth at least 600,000 votes. His reason managing the CD campaign, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, was even more pessimistic. The numerical votes would go all the way to a million.

John Osmeña did to the thing. He launched a hand-forming television commercial that showed him waving up a copy of the Bible because it had much the post office more. He circled for through the floor.

But he blamed the poll cynics who said the results were known to the public and that he would not be elected to the survey, they had rigged the results to make him look bad. By week the poll, were to the Commission on Elections, where he had filed a complaint.

The politician said John Osmeña should for his television commercial instead. The voters did not like the way he attacked the ES-VAT law, although they also did not like the author, Ralph Recto.

Now looking back, John Osmeña agreed he had made a mistake. "But at least I took down with me the principal author of the law," he said.

Dangerous ground

Throughout the campaign, political pundits who did not understand the political risks had cautioned the candidates on the quality of the political discourse

Republic of the Philippines
Commission on Elections
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Province, Region, Municipality, District, Legislative District, Barangay, Precinct
Election Day, Month, Year

was sadly lacking in substance.

Our democratic model, the United States, may offer an explanation. After he quit the presidential race in 1988, Gary Hart told a symposium at Yale University: "We'll get a culture which wants politics like that of the 'headliners') and lumps political figures with rock sport climbers produce more celebrities than statesmen?"

"We are, in a word, troubling our democracy," Hart said. He gather with the others to which they aspire, including the presidency," Hart said. The problem was a "media filter which demands simplicity regardless of issues, and is translated by personality."

By treating the electorate as "consumers," politicians continue to "underestimate" the voters by talking beneath their intelligence, Hart said. Other happens according to political scientist Nelson Dean Kristen, a true electorate becomes a "revolution of declining expectations."

Instead of addressing the level of political discourse, politicians, the people and the press go around in a phantasmagoria of the Philippine comedia case (because of the island, where images pass for insight, sound bites for analysis and demagoguery for discernment.

Issues and platforms are much more quicksand. The safest way to win is to tread the familiar, don't rock the boat, avoid controversies. Or not? (Above The rules bite back.)

(Editor's Note: The author is the founding CEO of the Institute for Policy Research and Strategic Studies. He welcomes e-mail replies .)

New center to document RP dialects

From page B1

scholars and writers from the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera, the United States and Japan.

Called "Habana" (consonance on consonance in Ilocano), the three-day gathering at the Manila Marriott Hotel and Rizal Technology included, besides the Ilocano diaspora, the state of Philippine dialects and languages.

Scholars said the center, to be established within three years, would create original and model dictionary, grammar and orthography (spelling), scholarly journals and literary materials and references for teaching various disciplines.

He said the center would be a repository of data on various dialects and languages, and would be equipped with audio and video recording of communicative events, including monologues and conversations.

The project is in line with the policy "Ang Bansa, Maraming Wika" (Our Nation, Many Languages), which is the basis for this year's language theme, "Many Languages, Strong Country," Roberto said.

English, as one of the country's official languages, will also be enhanced, the KWF chairman said.

Dialects: a big advantage

The policy has been formulated in keeping with the fact that the Filipinos is multilingual and multicultural, and that this country's having more than 170 dialects and regional languages is not a handicap but a big advantage, according to Roberto.

"It is ordinary for a Filipino to know how to speak two or more languages," he said, citing the case of President Macapagal-Arroyo who was quoted Kapampangan, Tagalog, Ilocano, Bisaya, English and Spanish.

The country, however, has a national language, Filipino, that has become a common language for various ethnolinguistic groups.

Although, Filipino is not the mother tongue of most Filipinos, it has become their second language, according to Roberto.

Tagalog syntax, grammar

He acknowledged that Filipino uses the syntax, Tagalog in its grammar and pronunciation, to some extent of elements or features coming from Ilokos, Hiligaynon, Bisaya and other major Philippine languages.

This is contrary to the historical Republic Act No. 7104 that requires that the national language be developed and recreated by the features of the country's other dialects and languages.

The KWF is working toward that direction and would conduct research and studies not only on the national language but also on the country's dialects and languages, Roberto said.

He said the KWF would be strengthening its various programs on Philippine lexicography, primarily national translation, phonology, phonetics, orthography, language mapping, including literacy projects and language teaching.

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HIGH FLYING Ginebra forward Arwind Santos dives in an attempt to pry the ball from the hands of Talk 'N Text import JJ Sullinger. [more photos]

San Miguel, TNT reach semifinals

SAN MIGUEL BEAT (Asaytime Collosseum)
0-0 p.m.—clinched in last 9.9 sec
1-0 p.m.—San Miguel Beer in blanks

By Manong R. Camillo

TALK 'N TEXT ALMOST QUIT PLAYING after erasing a 21-point fourth-quarter lead, sending big hankers in the stands from Blue Cardenas and JJ Sullinger to salvage a 114-113 victory over ASEE yesterday that put the Phoenix Pulp to the PBA Fruits Cup semifinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardenas completed a three-point play off Black Tribas and Sullinger nailed a crucial triple with the shot clock about to expire as the Phone Pals closed out their best-of-three quarterfinal duel at 2-1 and advanced against defending champion Red Bull.

In the second game, San Miguel Beer completed its version of a fourth-quarter comeback, erasing a 16-point deficit with 6:46 to go to pound out a 117-114 overtime decision of Sarangani Giordano and advance opposite the Alaska Aces in the other semifinal series.

Chris Calaguio treated fans of Talk 'N Text to extra time and Wesley Gonzales scored 3 to 6 in the fourth quarter as the Beermen dodged another first bullet and won their fourth lease the game in the series.

"We lost our focus, we thought the game was over," Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren said, referring to the Hale' near collapse after they've built a 101-80 lead with only 7:41 to play.

Cardenas, the pesky antagonist out of De La Salle, scored a career-high 37 points but final prize actually coming from the Tim Brown line with 20.1 to go the game Talk 'N Text a 113-110 lead.

Scho tuck it a one-point game with a layup and the Tagaytay ante Sullinger in the stripe for two free throws with 0.7 seconds left. The high-leaping left-hander made just the rear end of his attempt to give the Tagaytay one final chance to go to overtime.

But Arwind Santos threw away a last outlet pass to a streaking, while open Tribas.

And Bell, seeing for more than two weeks now after topping the eliminations, will come to the best-of-seven series with Talk 'N Text break as a dress. The series starts Wednesday also at the Araneta Coliseum.

The April fightback came early, with Sonny Alcoper Shawn Daniels leading the way to finish with a career-high 34 points, 21 of them in the third period.

The Pilipinas battled back with a 20-9 run and came within 8 (81-73) with 5:22 seconds left after a three-straight basket by Intrich.

Sullinger then ended the shot of the night, a triple over the outstretched arms of Niño Canaleta to going into the final 11 seconds for 112-110.

[Box score]

[Standings]

More Sports stories on A29 to 32

Lady Stags whip Ateneo tossers, seize solo lead

By Ramiro S. Asuncio

SAN SEBASTIAN COLLEGE LIVED UP TO ITS promised, beating Ateneo for the second time in six days, 25-19, 25-17, 25-23, to assume the solo lead at the start of the semifinal round of the Shakey's V-League women's volleyball tournament the Tbs arena in San Juan.

The defending NCAA champion Lady Stags, seen more formidable with Thai guest player Jeevasiri Thatkin and the Iriba, improved to 7-1 and overtook idle-mates to create co-leader Taiwan Lady Pantera.

La Salle beat Ateneo in the first game, 25-9, 25-21, 25-16, for its fourth win in eight match-ups. The Lady Princes dropped to second spot with a 6-2 slate.

"I think two wins out of our four semifinal games would be enough to put us in the finals," said DLSU coach Aspie Genuspla. "But then, we shouldn't be complacent because every [team] is capable of winning. We just have to keep our focus every game."

The Lady Stags were never threatened in the match, except in the closing moments of the third set when the Lady Eagles tied the game four times, the last at 22-all.

A spike by Lady Stag Rynthelle Desamadres followed by a backliner violation by Ateneo restored San Sebastian's lead, 24-22.

After a Sunday sideout that allowed Ateneo to close to a new, 23-24, but rookie NCAA Most Valuable Player Jovel Mendejar ended the match in San Sebastian's favor with a smash.

San Sebastian beat Ateneo on the final day of the elimination last June 12, 20-20, 25-16, 31-30, 33-31.

Ranier led the Lady Stags again with 20 points while Lanvoon tied Lariga chipped in 12.

Ateneo's Thai guest player and assistant coach Kanchana Jindarat was used sparingly in the second and third sets as the back spanner that boosted her in the latter part of the elimination phase bothered her nerve.

La Salle, which had to battle Adamson University in a playoff last Thursday for the fifth and last semifinal berth, drew 14 points from Thai guest player Jeevasiri Thatkin and 13 from Denise Hernandez.

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All sectors unite to fight bird flu

In a country that seems divided over every issue, it's refreshing to see how the threat of bird flu has brought varied sectors together.

Since the first fatalities in 2003 in several Asian countries, the government and various private sectors entities have embarked on an increasing number of efforts to shield our shores. Spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health, the National Avian Influenza Task Force (NAITF) has brought together not only government agencies in agriculture, health, animal resources, local governments, disaster management, disease and media information, the poultry industry representatives, veterinary experts and foreign and agencies as well.

The NAITF's efforts focus so far focused on containing any outbreak and close to 100 percent of the country and educating and training Local Government Units (LGUs) and public stakeholders. They've also imposed an outright ban on importation of live birds and processed poultry products from countries banned due to bird flu.

Many other sectors and organizations have stepped up to lend their own way. The Corporate Coalition against Bird Flu is waging and helping big companies prepare contingency plans for a possible pandemic. Other governments like Japan have also helped.

Groups like the WHO FAO, UNICEF, and the Philippine Pure Incident (PPI) have focused on education and awareness. UNICEF has adopted SIAFU's program called "Bird Flu: Kayang Iwasan. Kayang Pigilan" aiming to inform schools children — a segment found to be very susceptible to bird flu, based on the experiences of affected countries.

On the other hand, the PPI has introduced a training program for journalists. It's on the technical issues of bird flu control procedures, deep knowledge and understanding of the needed to accessible reports on developments.

LGUs have pledged financial and logistical support. Local officials and veterinary authorities have capacity attended training sessions, especially in regions where migratory birds are seasonally plentiful or where there are large broiler, layer, and duck populations. They want to find out how to prevent their veterinarian's livelihood with this, and prepare for any future incidence of bird flu within their localities.

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President GMA herself has pledged to release funds to implement measures preventing the entry of bird flu as well as to prepare the country as necessary to cope with a possible outbreak.

And the spirit of unity — formed by the fear of bird flu — extends beyond our shores. Countries constantly bickering on trade and foreign policy have found sharing equipment, resources, and information to further combat bird flu. President GMA promised help to Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in enhancing the Indonesian health sector. A team of six highly trained government veterinarians was formed and dispatched immediately. In a recent ASEAN Summit, one of the key discussions was to organize a united stand against bird flu.

The beauty of this whole effort is we now see people from all walks of life, sectors, or causes coming together. Whether in disputes far or here, or both, and it may make all the difference.

The Philippines is one of the hardest flu hit countries in Asia, and is hanging by a thread. But with the various sectors, and countries, all pooling together and holding on, it just might not break.

IWAS BIRD FLU

Signs of Bird Flu in Birds

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purpled discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Incoordination
- Diarrhea

Tips on how to protect yourself from Bird Flu

- **Practice proper hygiene.**
- **Protect the children.**
- **Protect yourself and your workers.**
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Lady Stags whip Ateneo tossers, seize solo lead

By Ramon S. Aveiro

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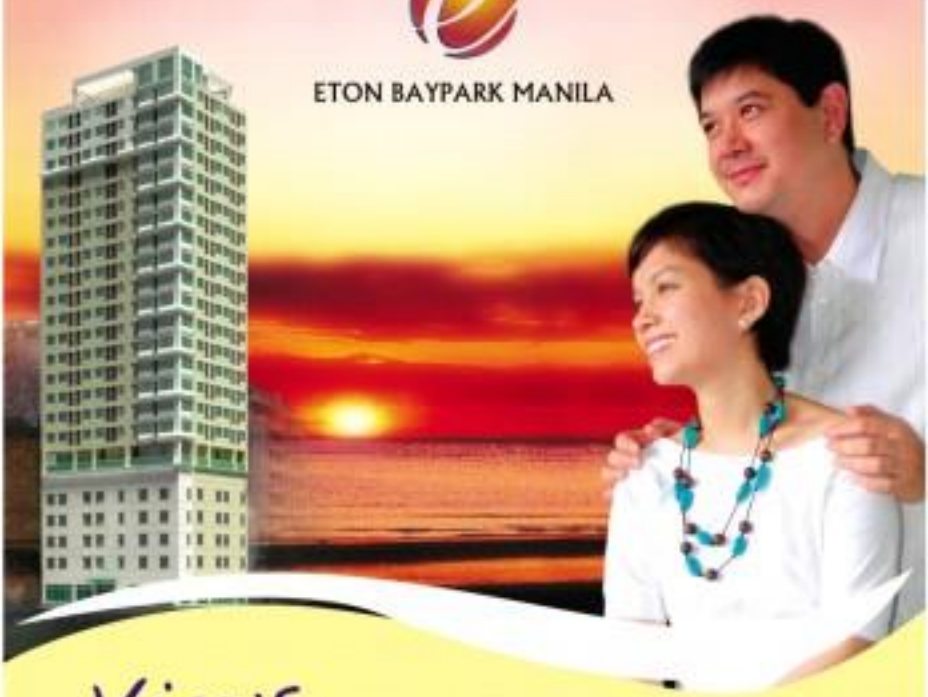

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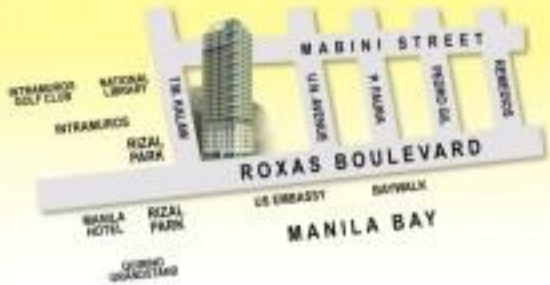

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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Robbers posing as cops** in San Juan, police warn /A26

San Juan is newest city in Metro

By Kristine L. Alave

THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN Juan is now a city.

A total of 7,732 San Juan residents voted "yes" in Saturday's plebiscite to ratify the bill transforming the municipality into a city, the Commission on Elections said. On the other hand, 848 residents voted "no."

According to the final tally released on Saturday night, only 8,580 San Juan residents trooped to polling stations to cast their votes.

Ms. Lizi Tarrol, San Juan's Comelec officer who oversaw the referendum, said the low turnout—only 11% of the municipality's 72,000 registered voters—was expected.

The was also the trend in previous plebiscites held in other municipalities, she added.

The voting period, which started at 7 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m., was uneventful, Tarrol said. The Comelec is scheduled to award the certificate of proclamation to San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor Ejercito in today's flag raising ceremony, city officials said.

The mayor said becoming a city would mean a higher budgetary allocation for San Juan from the national government's Internal Revenue Allotment. Thus, residents could expect more economic activity, infrastructure, and better social services, Ejercito said.

He promised respite from real property tax increases should the residents choose to live in a city.

"Your loyal government will not impose any increase in the next five years, just like in the past 13 years," Ejercito said in a letter to his town municipal to the vote.

The municipality of San Juan, located at the heart of Metro Manila, is composed of 21 barangays. According to government data, the municipality registered a gross income of P658.6 million last year, higher than other cities nationwide.

The San Juan stepbrother bill was authored by San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora and Senators Alfredo Lim and Jinggoy Estrada, who also served as mayor of the town.

A plebiscite will be held next October in Navotas. Should its residents vote in favor of stepbrood, Pateros will be the last remaining municipality in Metro Manila.

Inquirer partners get free checkups

By Tina G. Santos

SOME 126 SORSOGON AND NORSOGDAO residents never given a free physical checkup in a medical mission conducted by the Inquirer Saturday.

The beneficiaries were from communities in Sagnahan, Manila—the first batch to benefit from scores of medical missions to be conducted by the Inquirer for its "business partners."

"This is one way of promoting newsstand stores and extend reciprocating reward those who have been helping to maximize our presence as the country's top newspaper," Gilda Sarmiento, Inquirer circulation area manager, said.

"Newsboys are part of the supply chain that's why we continuously develop existing programs to ensure that they grow with the organization," he added.

Last March, the Inquirer launched Project In-out, the first comprehensive support program created by a newspaper for its partners on the streets. Almost 500 newsboys received P50,000 in accidental insurance and would be enrolled to receive a year health checkups.

Sarmiento said the next medical mission would be conducted every weekend in different areas in Metro Manila.

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MMDA to truck drivers: Avoid MacArthur Highway

By DJ Yap

TRUCK DRIVERS BOUND FOR THE NORTH should take the North Luzon Expressway instead of the MacArthur Highway, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority said yesterday, as reinforcement work continued on the Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela City.

Officials of the agency said this afternoon would be set up to ease traffic on MacArthur Highway near the narrow bridge, which had shown signs of wear and tear.

Officials from the police, the DPWH and the MMDA initially agreed to close the bridge on March 6 but local government officials asked for a delay until the plan after test runs caused heavy traffic.

By the time the narrow MacArthur Highway was closed down, field personnel had cleared obstructions to the thoroughfare to help ease the flow of traffic.

But the alternate route could not accommodate the "turning radius" necessary for the smooth passage of big trucks.

DPWH officials said reconstruction on the Tullahan Bridge would be completed within 180 days if everything went as planned.

IS THIS A TERMINAL OR WHAT?
From Poblacion Pateros, Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City: "Trake Commodo Street fronting the Makoy ferry station in Mandaluyong City every day on my way to Makati via the Mandaluyong-Makati Bridge, and always run into a traffic jam caused by jeepneys and tricycles double parked on the other side of the street waiting for ferry boat passengers. This road is not that wide but is open to two-way traffic. So you can imagine the pile-up that results when your vehicle meets another coming from the opposite direction. Don't the drivers of these trikes and jeepneys know what problems they are causing? They certainly don't make my day! Attention, Mandaluyong City government officials!"

Fake cops prey on couriers

By Kristine L. Alave

THE POLICE HAVE WARNED MESSENGERS and couriers against a robbery buildup syndicate in San Juan whose members pose as policemen and traffic enforcers.

PO1 Alexander Dolores of the San Juan police told the business last week that they have stepped up their investigation of the syndicate after receiving numerous reports of theft illegal activities in the area.

"Their group is quiet-but-deadly and their victims are increasing," he said.

Dolores added that members of the group show up as armed policemen and flag down messengers and riderers on motorcycle for alleged driving violations.

Instead of the full police uniform, however, the gang members wear jackets or baseball caps with the word "Police" on them, the policeman said.

After flagging down their victims, the suspects would then force them into a vehicle and thrust them to their seats and passengers.

The group's latest victim, Dolisito said, was Noel S. Quintuales, a courier of the Marikina City-based AR Express Services, a messenger company.

According to Quintuales' statement, two armed men dressed in jackets and a baseball cap with "Police" markings flagged him down on June 12, 12:30 p.m. on L. Guico corner Pinaglabanan streets in Barangay Maytunas, San Juan.

Quintuales, who was driving a Yamaha motorcycle with plate number MT125, said one of the men told him that he had committed a driving violation.

The two men then forced him into a white FX taxi parked nearby, where two more of their cohorts were waiting. Quintuales said he struggled against the suspects but was overpowered.

The suspects took five envelopes, each with P70,000 inside, from Quintuales, as well as his wallet which contained P5,000 in cash and a Nokia 3315 cellphone. The suspects later dropped him off in Cubao, Quezon City the entire road.

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DID YOU KNOW

FUTURE (Lambo, 07 C. about noon on the 1000 block of Quezon Ave. in Diliman, including roadside utility vehicles, in-front bars, schools, hospitals, movie houses, malls and other buildings. Violators may be fined up to P5,000 on the first offense. Unauthorized smoke can cause respiratory infections, asthma and even cancer.
Alfa Patricio, Inquirer Research

Towing problem

MACEO (TRK) agrees better on Makati as of 6 a.m. tonight or tomorrow morning, just in time for rush hour. Lanes and fast lane going same orders as did for expat or commuters. Plans are forming right now to call number (8) 7 a.m. go together for right parking on Ayala Ave. (Ed. 8 a.m. go right into Salcedo begins) 7 a.m. to tomorrow. Ed. 10. registered to no tape yet, but info no strong market. Remaining up to 15 hours as pump by Ayala Ave. area, area 3 months. Mayor Binay says just one last time, it looks up all the vehicles and then just waits for their owners to appear instead of immediately bringing the vehicles to the towing compound. What are we all going to do if we're in the area at 7 a.m. before vehicles were towed starting at 8 a.m., then 9 a.m. now 11 a.m. Next time, it might be 1 a.m. because then might run out of vehicles to apprehend. They do not pay heed for the penalty on the spot but they don't give you a receipt. Mayor Binay please take action!!

EYEWITNESS TO, Makati City

Poor overpass!

SOME of the most parts of the overpass near the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City have been crossing. Motorists are quickly tired of shedding bad to and. The deal seems to be of poor quality and easy to take care of.

M. REGANIO, 31, Pasay City

No road courtesy

MOST MOTORIST of pedestrian traffic on Ortigas Avenue. When will drivers ever learn road courtesy?

ALLAN M. LEJANO, Makati City

Dark, unsafe place

MC-COMMUTERS lights along Marcos highway starting from the area near Kaingin on Marcos Highway. Last for 1 years. Many people pass by this area but we do not feel safe. We don't even see where we are going because of the darkness. Adding this an ideal spot for the commission of crimes. Not to mention the bad that and others involved are really hampered on the workplace. Hope anyone out there can do something about it.

MEL M. LAGUNZAD, Pasay City

NBI steps into case of man with many aliases

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation is conducting a background check on Andrew Ha Yu, the man with several aliases who is now detained on various charges, including rape and swindling.

Head agent Ansel Dalampasan, chief of the NBI Special Task Force, said that a check of the bureau database showed that there were cases of indictments and no charges against Ha.

"But we have yet to check if the person we have on file and the suspect are one and the same," Dalampasan said, adding that the background check was conducted based on the request of the San Juan police. "They wanted to find out if the suspect has other pending cases before the bureau."

Dalampasan also said that they were checking whether there were cases pending against the other names used by Ha.

The San Juan Police earlier said that they were coordinating with other government agencies, apart from the NBI, to determine the identity of the suspect who has allegedly victimized at least 14 people.

In some instances, the suspect boasted—and carried identification cards—showing he was a relative of prominent personalities like Rose Yap (ex Lito "Chard" Lapid) and Florence Hermalino (ex Ate Vi). Reports to quit his victims' trust and entice them to put cash in investment instruments.

According to evidence gathered by the San Juan police, the suspect often introduced himself to Mike de Woods and Ricky Magsaysay as his relatives, one of the right names he allegedly used.

He also drove around in 'rides' which had former plates with the number "9" which a only is used to congressmen.

Ha was arrested outside a bar on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City after a 22-year-old woman lodged complaints of rape and robbery against him.

He also left a note in Mandaluyong City last month as he was driving a car with number "9" in some places.

OUT WITH DAD
A man plays with his daughters at the Quezon City Memorial Circle, building a special bond with them on Father's Day.

MetroBriefs

MPD chief on the way out?

REPORTS circulated yesterday that Manila Police District acting director Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa would be replaced after his tech exam involving his things out of his office at the MPD headquarters on Bonifacio into a truck. Reached on his cellular phone, Abarzosa said, "No comment (on) style. Kung anumi'tion kayo, wala (saying magagawa ako) kung hindi. Kabahin kung wala kabahin! Share ko pinoon sa that. If I am going to be replaced, there is nothing I can do about it and if not, I will keep on working," he said. There were reports earlier that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will appoint Chief Supt. Eric Diaz to replace Abarzosa who has been identified with outgoing Mayor Lito Atienza. Atienza earlier defended his police chief after Senator Benigno Aquino III questioned him about following the hostage-taking incident involving 26 children on a bus in the Manila on March 23. The suspension was also partial hold.

Allison M. Lopez

Mass bloodletting

TWENTY-NINE members of the New Manila Heights Rotary Club participated in a mass bloodletting last June 9 as part of their commitment to the Philippine National Red Cross Quezon City chapter. The members of the Rotary Club Alfredo was among the donors. The activity was in line with the agreement between PNRC and Rotary Club for the recruitment of 25 qualified and dedicated blood donors to allow the PNRC to maintain a viable blood supply in preparation for major emergencies.

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Fatah tightens grip on West Bank; US vows aid

JERUSALEM—THE PRIMA FACIE coup, crushed last week in Gaza, moved to consolidate control of the West Bank on Saturday, seizing public buildings, including the parliament, and preparing to swear in a new government that did not include its rival, Hamas.

The United States, meantime, worked swiftly to shore up the weakened Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas. The American consul general, Jacob Walles, met with a top Fatah official Saturday and said, now that Hamas was not part of the government, the United States was prepared to assist (Bush) aid to the Palestinian—even if the new government's control was limited to the West Bank.

"I expect that we are going to be engaged with this government," Walles was quoted as telling The Associated Press after the meeting. He said he expected an announcement about the aid to be made this week. The United States and other Western governments cut off direct aid to the Palestinian Authority after Hamas won legislative elections last year.

On Saturday morning, hundreds of Fatah supporters tried to flee Gaza through the Erez crossing into Israel. Many made it through, according to witnesses and Israeli radio, but others were turned after Hamas gunmen, who had set up roadblocks to prevent people from leaving, fired over their heads to scare them away.

"We all ran away after Qassam shells rose," said Said Badwan, 20, a driver who said he was at the checkpoint at the time and who was returning to Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas.

In the West Bank, armed Fatah supporters stormed the police compound in Ramallah as well as government buildings in Hebron and Nablus that the two groups had shared as part of the non-functioning Palestinian government. There were also new arrests reports that buildings controlled by Hamas, including charity and political offices, were looted.

The takeover in the West Bank seemed to solidify the split between Palestinians after the fighting ended Thursday with Hamas militants, group, in full control of the security forces and government in the Gaza Strip. Hamas seized power in Gaza. The aim seemed to raise the risk of violence spreading to the West Bank, where the secular and paramilitary Fatah is dominant but Hamas retains pockets of strength and some armed fighters, though it has struck no Israeli forces lately, analysts said.

On Thursday, Abbas dismissed the Hamas-led unity government amid the fighting that led to Hamas's virtual expulsion from Gaza. On Saturday, he sanctioned work to assemble a new government that would control only the West Bank, which contains an estimated 2.5 million Palestinians, compared with 1.5 million in Gaza.

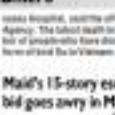
NYT

WORLD BRIEFS

N. Korea invites UN atomic inspectors to discuss shutdown

SEOUL—North Korea Saturday invited UN atomic inspectors to discuss the shutdown of its reactor, easing a looming dispute with the United States which had blocked a nuclear disarmament deal it almost won. The country's atomic energy chief, Ri Je Son, wrote to the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, about procedures for verifying the shutdown, the state Korean Central News Agency reported. "He invited the IAEA to send a working level delegation of the IAEA has been to attend or visit the DPRK (North Korea) so it is confirmed that the process of disabling the facilities of the DPRK at the Yongbyon Nuclear Scientific Research Center (NSRC) is begun," Ri Je Son said. Ri, director general of the General Department of Atomic Energy, asked the IAEA to discuss verifying and monitoring "the suspension of the operations," of Yongbyon under the Feb. 13 agreement, agency reported. The country is expected to receive fuel aid for this. It has said previously it would not begin the February pact as soon as it receives $25 million in funds which had been frozen in BDA since 2005. AP

Maid's 15-story escape bid goes awry in Malaysia



SHAMELIN

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Shamelin tried to flee her employer's apartment by climbing down a rope 15 stories above the ground until her shoelace caught on a window ledge, police said on Sunday. Shamelin, 23, was rescued by firefighters about 45 minutes after she fell. Together, Shamelin had climbed down 14 floors of a 15th story window, and started to climb down, but those in her car above also realized how high up she was, the New Straits Times reported. "My employer is overseas for 30 days and I live alone with her in this unit on the 15th floor," the paper quoted Shamelin, from Nairobi, as saying. "She has a bad temper. If I make a mistake, she will scream me. She has hurt me so many times by beating me," the maid said, following months of ill-treatment. The sweeping Shamelin said she could not bear it anymore and decided to run away after her employer locked her in the flat and went out, desperate to flee the woman's usual cruelties.

Reuters

Vietnam reports first bird flu death since 2005

HANOI—Vietnamese state media on Saturday announced that a man had died of bird flu, the country's first human death from the disease since November 2005. The 25-year-old from Da Tay province, bordering Hanoi, died of the H5N1 strain on Sunday, June 10, at the capital's National Contagious and Tropical Disease Hospital, said the official Vietnam News Agency. The latest death brings to 42 the number of people who have died of the human form of bird flu in Vietnam.

AP

China nabs slave-labor boss amid uproar

A CHINESE brick kiln worker toils at a brick yard in Shanyang, in northeast China's Liaoningprovince, June 17.

AP

SHUNG...CHINESE POLICE HAVE captured a man accused of holding workers in virtual slavery, state media reported on Sunday amid a national uproar over teenagers and men forced to work in brutal, barrace like brick kilns.

Baby Tieghun is accused of holding workers in a kiln in Hongtong county in the northern province of Shanxi. One worker died after being beaten by one of thug's henpen, and police rescued 31, thousand-control.

Song has become a central villain in a national drama over poverty hundreds or more teenage and adult "slaves" forced or cheated into gruelling labor in kilns, mines and foundries across Shanxi and neighboring Henan province.

When caught in the central province of Hubei, Song apologized for mistreating workers but denied responsibility for the deaths of the recently impaired man, a Hubei newspaper reported.

"I felt it was a fairly small thing, just hitting and cursing at the workers and not giving them wages," Song said, according to the Dajian Evening News. "The dead man had nothing to do with me."

The scandal has tarnished the Beijing Communist Party's reputation as to build a "harmonious" society with improved rights and income for the nation's hundreds of millions of poor farmers.

The China Youth Daily called the country's a "shocking disgrace" exposing officials' failure to enforce labor laws.

State television has reported that owners of the primitive brick-making operations run them like prisons with fierce dogs and beatings to deter escapes.

A sweeping police crackdown in Shanxi and Hebei had so far freed 568 people from labs and other work sites, including 22 under the age of 16 officials, Xinhua reported.

Local news reports said Song had lured, coerced or cheated the workers to the site from March 2006, forcing them to work 16-hour days and live off nearly-strained bread. Reuters

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

for the

CREDIT RISK ENGINE SYSTEM (CRES) PROJECT

The *Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)* is conducting a public bidding for the procurement of a credit risk modeling and rating/scoring solution for the CRES Project.

The primary purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of an automated, centralized, fully integrated, "commercial-off-the-shelf" credit risk modeling and rating/scoring solution of the Bank, which includes the following components:

- Software application, licenses and other software components (DBMS, APIs, connectors, middleware, etc.)
- Various technical and development tools

Furthermore, the CRES solution provider shall also be responsible for the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) process, that is, the extraction of all required data from the different source systems, data transformation and data loading into the target database(s). The solution provider shall also be responsible for the following requisite activities: source to target mapping, data extraction, data cleansing and quality assessment, design and development of the ETL routines and system integration testing of the ETL routines. The solution provider has the option to use the Bank's existing ETL tool – Informatica PowerCenter 7.1.2 to facilitate the ETL process.

The proposed system should be compliant to Basel II and other regulatory requirements of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

To ensure the highest degree of fit of the CRES solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope likewise covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities that will manage the impact of the new processes and the use of the "to be" processes. Incidental process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the "To Be" processes, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the requisite organizational and process changes.

The proposed solution should be implemented in Production within a maximum of twelve (12) months from the award of the contract.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and processes such as data conversion/migration, system integration, application customization/development, testing, user training, knowledge transfer, solution training and documentation, and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the solution has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the effectiveness of the system.

This is a procurement for Consulting Services and subject to Public Bidding and Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (80% Technical and 15% Financial).

Interested parties may secure the Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00) per upon signing of a Confidentiality Agreement** from **18-22 June 2007**, during regular office hours (between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.), from:

THE SECRETARIAT
(Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC))
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
30th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone : +63 2 405 7777
Fax Number : +63 2 526 6585
Contact Person : Atty. V. Romero
Head, Technology Management Group
Email Address : **vtbac@mail.landbank.com**

For those parties who will secure the Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements, there will be a meeting on the Eligibility and Short-listing process which will be held at the LANDBANK Plaza on June 25, 2007.

The Letter of Intent, the accomplished Evaluation Forms (List of Projects and Project Team Information and Requirements Checklist) for Short-listing and the rest of the Eligibility Requirements must be submitted by hand not later than **09 July 2007, 2:00 p.m.** in the aforementioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check shall be allowed to participate in the bidding proceeds.

The IT-BAC shall draw up a short-list of firms from those who have been determined as eligible and the number of short-listed firms shall not exceed five (5), in accordance with the following criteria:

- Bidder's Evaluation
- Firm's Functional and Non-Functional and Other Requirements
- Implementation Methodology
- Vendor Experience, Expertise and Capability
- Personnel Qualifications
- Support Base
- Vendor's Profitability

The short-listed bidders, upon receipt of formal notice, may secure the Bidding Documents (e.g. Terms of Reference, Requirements Clarification Document, etc.) **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱17,500.00)** from **23-25 July 2007**. For all qualified parties, the Bid Documents shall be held on **30 July 2007 (Monday), 10:00 a.m.** at the aforementioned address.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **Forty-five Million Pesos (Php 45,000,000.00) inclusive of all taxes and three (3) year maintenance**, which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and in this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JOSE C. ROMUALDEZ
Chairman IT-BAC

Ang mataas na dosage ng aspirin, may nakakasama sa tiyan. Nasasaktan nito ang sensitibong sikmura na maaaring maging sanhi ng matinding hapdi, pagdudugo, at pagkagasgas ng bituka.

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The WORLD

Editor Lourene B. Guava

INVESTIGATORS search for evidence around the wreckage of a police bus at the site of a bomb blast in Kabul, June 17 which killed more than 35 people. The extremist Taliban claimed responsibility.

Suicide bomber blows up Kabul bus, kills 35

KABUL—A POWERFUL BOMB RIPPED THROUGH a police bus in the Afghan capital Sunday killing up to 35 people, police said, in one of the deadliest attacks in the city since the Taliban regime was toppled in 2001.

Police officials gave different death tolls after the blast, with the city's criminal investigation department chief Ahdash Pakteawal saying that 35 police officers and bystanders were killed.

This would make it the deadliest rebel attack in Afghanistan since the fundamentalist Taliban regime was driven from power and instructed an insurgency that relies on terror tactics similar to those used by extremists in Iraq.

"Among those wounded were two Japanese, a German and two Pakistani nationals who were perhaps passing by the area when the explosion took place," Kabul police chief Gen. Ismatullah Dashdasi said.

The 45-seater bus, which had been taking officers to a police training academy, was reduced to a skeleton of blackened and mangled metal. Body parts and bits of human flesh were flung across a wide area.

The blast struck outside the police headquarters in a crowded part of the city center that is near a busy market. Two minibuses were damaged severely and witnesses said by soldiers were also hurt by the blast.

Pakteawal first said that the bomb was inside the bus but later said it may have been a suicide bombing.

"It is the work of terrorists, al-Qaeda and enemies of the people," Pakteawal said.

The insurgent Taliban movement, which is allied with al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility. "It was a suicide car bomb," spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said.

The attack comes a day after a suicide car bomb blast in the west of the city killed three people, in the 10th such bombing inside Kabul this year. AFP

Iran slams knighthood title for Salman Rushdie

TEHRAN, IRAN—IRAN ON SUNday condemned Britain's decision to grant a knighthood to author Salman Rushdie, who was forced into hiding for a decade after the Islamic republic's spiritual leader ordered his assassination.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mohammad Ali Hosseini said the decision to grant Britain's highest honor to Rushdie, who wrote the controversial novel "The Satanic Verses," was an insult to the Muslim world.

"Rewarding a person who is among the most devoted characters to the Islamic society is obvious proof of anti-Islamism by ranking British officials," said Hosseini during his weekly press conference.

Rushdie went into hiding after Iran's ayatollah Khomeini issued a 1989 fatwa, or religious edict, ordering Muslims to kill the author because his novel "The Satanic Verses" allegedly insulted Islam.

The Iranian government declared in 1998 that it would not support but could not rescind the fatwa. Rushdie says he receives a "sum of Valentine's card" from Iran each year on Feb. 14 letting him know the country has not forgotten the vow to end his life.

"The event it showed that the assessment of insulting Muslims was not accidental but was a planned and organized move that enjoyed support of some Western countries," said Hosseini.

Britain announced its decision to grant Rushdie a knighthood on Saturday along with CNN reporter Christiane Amanpour, a BBC double agent and several others. AP

RUSHDIE

WHAT'S INSIDE
Woods trails leader Baddeley/A30

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Delva

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ZAIN Despite heads out to Joy vorwich.

Another close shave for SMC-RP cagers

BILIGNOE, SORSOGON—SAN MIGUEL PILSIMIS dropped another close game Saturday, this time against Sorsogon Christian 7 powerhouse RR Nerve Ind., 89-85, at the Sport Echo Sportsdal Center.

The Nationals, penning up for the Fiba Asia championship in Yokohama, Japan, next month, controlled the game three fumbles of the way until Danny Seigle fouled out with five minutes left and SMC RP ahead, 77-74.

The Subs seized the opportunity to swing up five straight points capped by a 3-pointer from Lloyd P. power forward Mondar Nadonkone that gave the hosts a 79-77 edge.

Back to back offensive fouls against Art Tenebro allowed Sorsogon to increase the lead to 84-80 with two minutes remaining.

After a timeout, Mark Cagaimo completed a 1-point play to tie the deficit to one, it used to the next play set up Gabe Norwood for a breakaway dunk that he was called for traveling.

Another steal saw Norwood setting up Tenebro for an uncontested layup, but the 6-9 center failed to connect and 6-3 Ely Xclusive hit two free throws with 20 ticks left, 86-83.

Danny Alapag and Jeverre Fajardo ensured SMC's victory in the fourth until height-folded out.

It was the third game for the Nationals, who took on 82-77 loss from Christian 8 top team Mt. Line Verses Friday after defeating with a 97-79 throttling of Serbian Division II team Mega Ideman Thursday.

The scores

SMC RP-82—Cagaimo 17, Tenebro 13, Fajardo 11, Norwood 9, Seigle 9, Alapag 8, Reyes 6, Ayaki 5.

SRC PILIPINAS-85—Caguia 20, Seigle 19, Norwood 12, Tenebro 10, Fajardo 8, Cagaimo 6, Alapag 5, Reyes 4, Ayaki 2.

Quarters: 19-16, 32-31, 57-50, 89-85.

WORLD SUMMIT OF POOL

Pagulayan rules roost

FILIPINO ALEX PAGULAYAN downed American Shane Van Boening, 7-5, Sunday to win the fourth annual World Summit of Pool at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The 28-year-old Toronto, Ontario boat/inventor of Cabuyao, Subida, captured the top prize of US$12,000 (about P560,000) in shooting his second major title for the year.

Pagulayan also dominated the 17th Japan 9-Ball Open last March in Tokyo, beating Taiwanese Ko Li-wen, 9-5, in the finals to nail the top prize worth about $$25,000.

Van Boening, the 2007 European and BCA runner-up and reigning Predator World 10-ball **[illegible] champion, had earlier whipped Pagulayan in their last-ever match, 11-4, to reach the finals.**

But Pagulayan gained another shot at Van Boening by topping Poon Sports sidekicks Francisco "Django" Bustamante with a similar 7-5 victory in the losers' bracket.

Pagulayan also beat Bustamante, 11-3, in the fifth match of the winners' bracket while Van Boening, bounced another Filipino, Warren Kiamco, 11-7.

Bustamante stayed alive by sipping Lee Owen-nam, 11-9, while Kiamco outgunned Tony Chohan, 11-2, in the one-loss side.

A 7-4 win over Kiamco kept Bustamante in the running before he faltered against Pagulayan in their rematch in the losers' side.

Other Filipino campaigners in the event were Filipino pool legend Jose "Anang" Parica, Marlon Manalo, Dennis Orcollo, Al Lagena, Edwin Mercado and Danny Medina.

Pagulayan, whose major victories include the 2004 World Pool Championship and the 2005 US Open 9-Ball, finished third in the 2005 Predator World 10-Ball. Marlon Hernandez, Conn Dator

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Here comes Tiger

Woods trails leader Baddeley by 2

OAKMONT, PENNSYLVANIA—AARON BADDELEY escaped with an amazing par from deep trouble at the base of a bunker on the 18th hole, finished strong with a birdie for an even-par 70, and zoomed up with a two-shot lead after three rounds of the US Open on Saturday.

But the guy two shots behind him still rules the Australian has the biggest test of his career: Tiger Woods.

Woods was nearly perfect from tee-to-green, hitting every green in regulation until he had to chip up from the rough on the 18th hole and took his only bogey for a 69, one of only two rounds under par over the tough Oakmont Country Club's fearsome greens shrouded in softer rain.

Woods, who has never won in a major when trailing going in to the final round, will be playing in the last group in a major for the second time this year. He was one shot behind at the Masters and tied for second.

"I've been there before, and I know what it takes," Woods said. Had Casey shot a 72 and was at 5-over 215 with Stephen Ames (73), Justin Rose (72) and Bubba Watson (76), who made a triple bogey from the left side of the ninth green but rebounded himself with pars and a long bogey the rest of the way.

The other subpar round belonged to steve Stricker, who holed out from 79 yards for birdie on the 18th hole for 68 to give himself a chance at 6-over 216, tied with former champion Jim Furyk (70) and Michael Sealey Angel Cabrera, who slowly lost ground but then dropped his way to a bogey-bogey finish for a 71.

Baddeley won the Australian Open as an 18-year-old amateur in 1999 by holding off Greg Norman and Colin Montgomerie, saying then that his goal was to become better than Woods. He won the Australian Open a year later as a pro, but found detours to America struggling to get his card and picking up his first US tour victory only last year.

But he showed impressive poise on an Oakmont course that played tricker with accessible hole locations and greens that had been watered three times since Friday afternoon.

As the leaders began to lose ground, Baddeley surged ahead. He made three birdies in a four-hole stretch, culminating with a 6-foot putt on the 18th hole that stretched his lead to three, as

WOODS: Loving and liking where he is.

Hamilton grabs US GP pole; Alonso 2nd

INDIANAPOLIS—LEWIS HAMILTON OUTRAN McLaren teammate Fernando Alonso and former drivers Felipe Massa and Jenson Button on Saturday, capturing the No. 1 starting spot for the US Grand Prix and his second consecutive pole.

"Getting my second pole is even better than last week," said Hamilton, the first black driver in Formula One history. "When the team told me I had P1, I again screamed in my helmet and just thought the whole day."

After Massa and Raikkonen took the top spots briefly with about four minutes to go in the 75-minute final qualifying session, Alonso jumped to the top with a lap of one minute, 23.086 seconds on the 4.19-kilometer, 13-turn Indianapolis Motor Speedway circuit.

Seconds later, Hamilton took the top spot at 1:23.085 and stayed out front in the wind, posting a final lap of 1:23.133 to wrap up his second pole in eight-by-seven tri.

The pole was announced since Alonso had been faster than Hamilton in two days of practice, but Hamilton, who keeps one-upping himself, said it was just hard work paying off.

"I was quite surprised (to win the pole), to be honest, mainly because it's my first time here," the young Englishman said. "I haven't really been performing as good as Fernando has. But, going into qualifying, just throughout the whole week, and I'm always trying to find that little bit more, little bit more. Experience is everything here. The more I get out on the track, the faster I get."

Trailing Alonso by 12 points in the overall standings, Hamilton is eight points in the season standings, and Alonso and Raikkonen, who hope to challenge the McLaren drivers on Sunday. AP

Marciano, Esplana power St. Joseph

JANINE MARCIANO AND CRISTINE ESPLANA provided the scoring punch for St. Joseph Col. legs in a crucial 25-22, 25-15 victory over Rizal Technological University in the Shakey's girls volleyball league at the Ateneo Blue Eagle gym yesterday.

"I'm really working hard on my game especially since things are difficult for us because we have a lot of first-timers in our team," said Marciano, who scored 16 kills to lead the St. Joseph champs.

But the road to the quarters will be tough for a relatively new St. Joseph squad.

"We can no longer afford to lose in our remaining games if we want to reach the quarterfinals," said St. Joseph coach Aileen Torpiedo, whose wards improved to a 2-1 card while dropping Rosewell to 2-2.

"I only have two hitters working with me, Janine and Pamela Tolentino and the rest are first-timers," said Esplana. "Our other hitter, Rose Ann Pogoy, is no longer with the team that's why it's harder for us. But we are happy we still won."

MARCIANO

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Did the BAP merit outright ejection?

BARE EYE
Recall Revisited

THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION of the Philippines stopped out-of-bounds and went prompt. by president by the intervention of basketball federation (Fiba) last week.

The Fiba officially declared the BAP defunct.

This meant that all BAP transactions with the Fiba would henceforth be rendered null and void.

The Fiba, in fact, ceased to exist as calling the BAP where it belongs—deep in the dirt bin—as far as the world basketball body is concerned.

* * *

But the second, BAP president Go Teng Kok had written the Fiba to expect the total lack of its viable national basketball development program in the set-up of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

The SBP in case there are still some who don't know what it represents, is the body that was officially tasked by the Fiba to take over the functions of the BAP formerly the governing body of Philippine basketball.

But barring word the letter, the BAP remained what essentially amounted to as a cringing opportunist.

The BAP was advised that it has no business whatsoever dipping its fingers in Philippine basketball affairs.

* * *

The Fiba also sternly told BAP never to deal with it again as a dictatorial outfit and the business solely with the SBP.

That alone amounted to an outright ejection, no matter how you look at it.

No, actually, it was more shameful and damaging.

After ejection, there's a chance for the promised party to participate in future confederations.

Sorry, in the case of the BAP, it was handed a cold bloodied verdict.

It was told it could no longer return to open the league!

* * *

Naturally there was instant application.

One concerned female basketball devotee went to church to thank God.

She celebrated and said the Fiba "finally saw the light."

Oh, it was true that the BAP had figured its several flagrant violations in the past.

It's also easy to read political motivation in that letter—said to have been prodded by BAP strongmen Graham Lim—sent to Fiba big boss Patrick Baumann.

But Lim, private Politico or no politico, that letter by the BAP to the Fiba was not exactly without merit.

The letter was, pure and simple, a timely warning.

* * *

Why? Well, nothing could be more.

What the BAP had told the Fiba had been and here before.

The Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas has entered with any visible, effective national development program.

It also appears that the SBP has dedicated all its cavity headed efforts to the formation of a strong national Philippine team in a bid to qualify for next year's Beijing Olympics.

Well, nothing wrong with that.

But now that the SBP appears amenable not to put up what should be called the National Basketball Association, it's almost sure they look the way of the poor natives among future ZIP squad aspirants.

There's always hoops glad now to being purely national.

* * *

[REDACTED] It's evidence of the Philippine field who otherwise than Singapore fights to avenge its loss to the ZIP team's football team last week. Mr. Carlo Revilla still on time to support the national squad. Game time is 6 p.m. Tomorrow, don't miss "Meaningful am." a benefit concert for the community-based alternative medicine training program of the Phil. Center for Traditional and Alternative Medicine at the Conspiracy Cafe on Timog Avenue, Quezon City, from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight... Early information on the Ginoo parade ground, the first Philippine Marathon. Pray. Wind and weather permitting. Evening of ballroom and Experimental Magazine to Attract in Avenue of Mechanical Men Dr. Jose Ataui.]

RP lady booters try to sweep Singaporeans today

A SHUTOUT VICTORY AGAINST SINgapore dream's notably the Philippine women's football squad.

"This is the first official match of the team and we're still trying to adjust to each other," said skipper Michelle Rose Ritz. "Hopefully, we can play our own better."

The crowded national lady booters aim to sweep the Lionesses in their two-game goodwill series at 6 p.m. today at the Philsports football field.

"There's more pressure now," the 20-year-old forward said. "We have a lot of new teammates who do not have much experience as our last team."

It seemed, though, that many were willing to step up.

On Saturday night, substitutes Glen Sonora and Nilsa Agonoste accounted for two goals as the Philippines outclassed Singapore, 3-0.

Fil-Australian Bonita Collenette Bergson, who joined the squad only a couple of months ago, also emerged as a relentless defender.

The victory came even without head coach Marisa Muro, who had a previous official engagement. "It showed how well prepared the team was," said team manager Irene Marcos.

Singapore, fielding the squad that will see action in the 2007 Southeast Asian Games, vowed to make a few tactical adjustments this time. — Jasmine B. Dayo

Pacquiao tug-of-war could end in 'sharing'

THE TWO PARTIES ENGAGED IN A LEGAL war to gain promotional rights to the fights of Filipino ring sensation Manny Pacquiao have agreed to look into the possibility of a "sharing" scheme—a significant development that could end the deal for lucrative fights in the next two years.

If Top Rank and Golden Boy Promotions settle on a shared promotional rights scheme, Pacquiao could find himself in a crash-style spar rematch with Nicolas Mayo Antonio Barrera this year and two more bouts that will see an intriguing trilogy against reigning world super featherweight king Juan Manuel Marquez next year.

The legal battle, however, presents the option, currently inked with Arum's Top Rank, from earning a share with rivals of the two Mexicans, who are under contract with Oscar De La Hoya's GBP.

But after a day-long zoom-mandated mediation yesterday, both GBP and Top Rank agreed to work toward a final resolution of the promotional impasse. They will resume talks on Monday (Sunday, EP time).

"Those close to the Champion Dean Talbol are saying that there has been serious talk of the two giant companies 'sharing' rights to Herman Jones," reported Michael Hurley of boxingscene.com.

Inferno L. Legendary, Contributor

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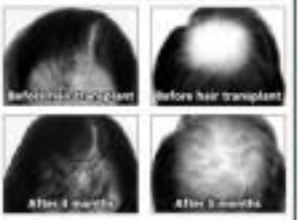

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JUSTIN Tarte of Manila Shark leaps for dunker vs Cebu Dolphins bro Isaacson Miggy Cornejo in yesterday's game at the Rizal ballpark. Arman

Cebu sweeps elims; Negros nips Laguna

By Mhes Anthony Reyes

CEBU SCORED 14 RUNS IN THE FIRST FIVE INNINGS AND WENT on to trounce Manila, 22-8, yesterday to complete a four-game sweep of Baseball Philippines' pilot series eliminations at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

The Dolphins finished with 18 hits off Jose Manila pitchers although Cebu had to call on reliever Joseph Orillosa, who kept the Sharks from hoping no more than a 6-4 tie before scored inning.

Another Negros catcher converted a collar by Laguna to salvage a 7-6 victory in their afternoon duel for a spot to join the Dolphins in the semifinals with a 3-1 series lead overall.

Negros opened a 7-1 lead in the bottom 5th before Laguna, which had 13 safeties to the season's opponent with three runs in the eighth and two more in the ninth.

The Laguna Tigers fell to 4-1 but they still have a chance to qualify if they handle Makati (2-2) in Sunday's doubleheader. Negros and Manila (1-2) tangle in the other clash during the afternoon.

Cebu had 4-1 lead following a two-run single by Jeremiah Jeong Yong-hee in the upper second, but Jeong followed in the bottom half of the inning by issuing two walks and hitting a batter to load the bases with one out.

Orillosa took over and was greeted by a run-scoring single by Ramon Hernandez, who scored a Manila rally that eventually tied the game at 4-all, before the Cebu pitcher struck out Jesse Ebro and forced out Reyes.

But the Dolphins drew blank.

Rodjun Cruz opened the inning in relief for Cebu, Joseph Evans (another) a run-scoring double in the fourth, and the Dolphins added three more runs after fifth for a 10-4 margin.

Orillosa yielded eight hits in seven innings in picking up the win. The loser was Charlie Lalanda, who gave up 11 hits in five innings.

In top semifinals, Cebu will face the No. 4 team in the semi round with the No. 2 and No. 3 squads collating to the other semifinal bout.

Cebu	8 8 1
Manila	4 6 2

Boxers in developmental pool "deserve free meals"

The Philippine Sports Commission, source of much disbursement for the various national sports associations, does not provide food allowances to athletes in their developmental pools. Only athletes based in Manila is said to enjoy the luxury of a free meal every month. Reason: they are considered employees of the PSC. Some athletes based in the provinces of the 30 leaves with no allowance at all.

Javier Hernandez

SPORTSWATCH

Harbour 5 plans up at Forum

THE PLACE OF MIND CENTERED PHILIPPINE Basketball League Unity Cup champion Rosheen Gardenwalk has set its sights ahead of their season-opening 5 PBA Invitational Challenge on 18 Saturday. Manila Harbour Centre owner Mikee Romero, team manager Eric Arejola and coach Jorge Gallent will pack the stands and all Rosenville sports supporters to watch the Harbour Centre Port squad in the Fiesta Pinoy-sanctioned game. Romero said PBL-the 4 Pioneer one of the Universal Auditorium Pinoy Pride Monsters, shooting coach, 2-0 in their two-game finals. Appearances in the first and fifth conference and Asian Basketball Confederation Dance and The Giant of Jurassic Coordinator, which held the state office and sports facility at College in the East Avenue.

SJC derby reset to Wednesday

THE SAN JUAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE SEAS vs. Sandbird 4 Cola Derby golf roster was this Wednesday at the San Juan Coliseum. Philippine Sports Commission Chairman Ricardo Garcia announced yesterday that the Saturday tournament was scheduled last Friday to coincide with a convention at Clarkson ruling that "conflicting and other forms of gaming, betting offices, boxing and other similar sports shall not be allowed within the premises of the convention." Last Saturday, the Governor supervised a public school in the town of San Juan del Monte, ordering shipment of the participants against to meet the Philippine Amateur Golf Association's public golf tournament. Only athletes based in Manila is said to enjoy the luxury of a free meal every month. Reason: they are considered employees of the PSC. Some athletes based in the provinces of the 30 leaves with no allowance at all.

PCAP 5-cooler fires off today

THE PHILIPPINE CHESS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (PCAP) 5-cycle derby carries tomorrow, today will be the 5th round of the 5-cycle derby. Defending champion Rosheen Gardenwalk and Arejola as main challengers. Rosheen will be another Cooler of the Pinoy battle among 10 top qualifiers. Randy Ian and Dalen Ang with their series Michael Gaw (2001) and Cecilio Frederick Arnaldo of Pilipinas Cultural College. Rosheen Gardenwalk and Arejola CO. Ltd and the like. The PCAP Grand Championship derby will be staged on July 7. "Athletes must be fighting remaining. It's still my family battle for the PCAP Cooler of the Year title," said president Lito Atienza. Photo: Diplomat Hotel and Golf and Sports Association Cup.

OVERCOMING BALDNESS

THINK-A-HEAD

No man likes being bald. He may try to ignore it, but deep inside, there's a nagging feeling that life has been unfair. Why me? Why have I gone bald when my friends haven't? Many men sadly accept looking older, being called 'Baldie,' feeling not so attractive to the opposite sex and putting up with the other handicaps baldness brings – both socially and career wise.

Other men refuse to accept baldness and look for a way out – this is when a strong determination has led to an even worse state of frustration and despair. Before you do anything about baldness, read the answers to these most asked questions.

Q. I DON'T LIKE BEING BALD – WHAT CAN I DO?

A. There are basically two ways to go. Some men opt for a surgical hair transplant. Others for the non-surgical alternative. When making the decision there's one essential rule: **THINK-A-HEAD** – it's not only the immediate results that are so important, it's what your head is going to look like in a few years.

Q. OK, SO WHAT ABOUT SURGICAL TRANSPLANTS?

A. Some say transplants have come a long way since the early days, others say they haven't come far enough. Basically the surgical process involves taking donor hair from elsewhere on the recipient's head and transplanting it to the balding areas.

Q. DOES TRANSPLANTED HAIR CONTINUE TO GROW?

A. If the surgery has been performed well, the transplanted hair will continue to grow, as it did before it was moved.

Q. CAN ANY BALD MAN HAVE A TRANSPLANT?

A. It's not really possible for a man with advanced baldness because he simply would not have sufficient donor hair to cover his huge bald area. Transplants do not increase the number of hairs on a man's head, it's just a case of redistributing them. Transplants are excellent for filling in smaller areas or adding extra hair to thinning parts where there is not expected to be further hairloss.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS WITH TRANSPLANTS?

A. For men whose baldness will not advance further, there seems little downside to having a transplant.

Q. BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I CONTINUE TO GO BALD?

A. For those whose hairloss continues to advance, there can be significant problems. While the transplanted hair will carry on growing, the other hair becomes thin in contrast as he progressively goes bald. He can have further transplants, but it's likely donor hair will become unsatisfactory as the donor areas do not re-grow hair. The result might be patches of thicker-growing hair among thinning and sparse hair – and this won't take long to happen. The ensuing odd appearance of the man's head can cause him further embarrassment and, worse, lowered self-esteem. And for many it leaves just a few short years from thinning to full-blown baldness.

If a man suffers from Male Pattern Baldness, which usually strikes when he's in his early twenties or thirties, his hairloss will likely continue until he's bald. This is where the catchphrase **THINK-A-HEAD** comes into play. Think what your head will look like in a few years after surgical transplanting – will you want to go out in public?

Q. I DON'T WANT THAT RISK, SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

A. The non-surgical alternative is TCB or Transdermal Cosmetic Reconstruction. It's a super-fine synthetic skin with hair seen to be actually growing from it, which is then bonded to your scalp.

Q. IS TCB FOR ANYONE, NO MATTER HOW BALD HE MIGHT BE?

A. Yes, this advanced system is ideal for any state of hairloss and baldness, even for those with only a small amount of hair at the back and sides – the sort of baldness which is really not suitable for a transplant.

Q. HOW REAL IS TCB, WILL IT LOOK GENUINE?

A. TCB is real, natural hair, which looks and feels as if it is growing from your scalp. TCB cannot be distinguished from your own hair, even by touching. You are not "treating" it, it's part of you.

Q. DOES TCB REQUIRE SPECIAL CARE?

A. To keep TCB perfect, you need only visits to the stylist every two or three weeks, just as any man does for the cutting and styling of his hair. As you get older, your TCB can be subtly aged and grayed, just as your full head of hair would have looked had you not lost any.

Q. IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE – WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS?

A. There are no problems. You can do anything with TCB. It's your new full head of hair. It feels totally natural on your head – you're not aware of it. The only times you'll be reminded that you're no longer bald is when you look in the mirror and have others react to you – remember, you're going to look years younger!

Q. IS TCB AVAILABLE IN MANILA?

A. Yes, it's available in Manila at Beerman, the hair replacement specialists.

Q. IS TCB SUITABLE FOR ME?

A. To find out if your scalp condition and skin type are suitable for the TCB procedure, book a no-cost TCB hair-finding consultation by calling 892-4267.

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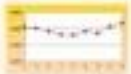

Check out market report on Page B6

Market sets its sights overseas

THE STOCK MARKET IS SEEN TO TAKE ITS CUE FROM MOST OVERSEAS BOURSES TODAY AS INVESTORS ...

PSE cites surge in foreign buying

Investments from abroad up 86.2% to P46.56B in first 5 months

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lizon

NET FOREIGN BUYING IN THE STOCK MARKET SURGED 86.2 percent to P46.56 billion in the first five months of the year from P25 billion a year ago, the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) reported.

Net foreign buying is a key indicator of investor interest in the stock market, which is computed by total foreign buying less selling within a given period.

The PSE said that total foreign buying from January to May this year almost doubled to P260.31 billion from the P141.2 billion posted in the corresponding period last year. Total foreign selling likewise expanded by 101.3 percent and reached P213.75 billion from P113.14 billion a year earlier.

The increase in foreign transactions coincided with the market's record-breaking run in May. Stock prices, as tracked by the PSEi, started reaching new highs on May 18, when it closed at 3,448.15 points to erase the previous record high of 3,447.60 points set on Feb. 5, 2007.

The PSEi closed at 3,474.67 on May 31, or 16.8 percent higher than its level of 2,982.34 at the end of 2006. Last Friday, the PSEi closed again at a new record high of 3,671.23 points.

"The buildup of foreign investments is fueling the market's record-breaking run," said PSE president Ferdie Lim. "I am optimistic we can sustain the interest of foreign investors, as long as the country's economic fundamentals remain solid, while our po-

FULL STORY

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Figures that matter to our editors like

Room supply by hotel classification (First Quarter 2007)

Source: Department of Tourism
Asia Pacific Inquirer Research

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Gov't sees P99B** in additional VAT collection next year /B5

■ **No Free Lunch:** Sustaining 6.9 percent /B6

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For Zambo firm, mining site yields golden signs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR MINING PROJECTS INC. source Development (Philippines) Inc. continues to receive positive results from an ongoing assessment of a gold-rich mine finding prospect in.

TVIRE reported that infill drilling results from finishing yielded values ranging from 0.05 to 1.86 grams of gold per ton of ore, and 56.3 to 194.47 grams of silver per ton.

The infill drilling program, which covers the Tinago-Ribon Lalab vein system at the finishing property, is meant to define the extent of the gold vein system and determine the consistency of reported mineralization.

Infill drilling refers to the drilling of additional holes within a defined portion of a mineral deposit for the purpose of increasing reserves. In finishing, the new holes are being drilled at intervals of 25 meters.

Pelido said the drilling program was on hold.

PHILSAMMO 61

For Zambo firm ...

From page B2

...to allow completion of the finishing measures anticipated. It will resume drilling once the assessment and ensuing feasibility study are completed.

A total of 56 holes 50 meters apart had already been drilled, all of which had recorded "encouraging" mixed values of up to 9.0456 grams of gold per ton, and up to 1,234.20 grams of silver per ton.

The company said the Tuaga...

...were opposite to the the largest mineralized structure at Balabag, while the Bilaw-Lalab twin veins subsist to smaller and thinner.

In a report issued last month, TVI(H) Canada-based affiliate TVI Pacific Inc. said the former's net income in the first quarter were up 47% percent to C$3.4 million or some 7.92 million in contrast to around 40.3 percent to C$13.23 million (P620 million).

In gold terms, TVI(H)'s Canadian mines in Zamboanga del Sur yielded 15,500 gold equivalent ounces, up 3% percent compared to the output in the comparative period last year.

TVI Pacific said exploration on existing and new properties is expected to increase toward the end of 2007 as it expands its portfolio of properties in the Philippines.

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Seaoil gauges market for maiden offering

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PETROLEUM PLAYER SEAOIL PHILIPPINES Inc. is studying plans to go public next year, hoping to raise between P1 and P1.5 billion.

"We want to institutionalize the organization," Seaoil chief finance officer Hank Tu said. "We want to be a conglomerate and to expand our oil retail market."

Tu said Seaoil is looking to expand its network of retail stations to up to 600 over the next three years. At present, it has 120 filling stations.

Founded in 1976, the Seaoil group of companies is first retailer of fishing storage facilities for petroleum and petrochemical products.

Soon after, it rapidly expanded to operations by carving a niche in the wholesale petroleum market. Currently, the company purchased refined products from the world's leading lubricant additive supplier, to develop the most advanced lubricants in the market.

In 1999, in anticipation of the oil market deregulation, Seaoil Philippines Inc. was established, eventually becoming the first independent petroleum player to open a gasoline retail station.

Today, the Seaoil Group of Companies consumes over 1 percent of the country's annual demand rate, or industry's revenues of P200 billion, according to its officials.

Over the next five years, Seaoil is looking at expanding its products to include biodiesel.

Life insurance companies expect to meet capitalization requirement

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE LIFE INSURANCE INDUSTRY IS confident that it will meet the risk-based capitalization requirement recently imposed by regulators.

The Insurance Commission has set the new requirement in order to guard our insurers with sizeable business.

"In at least minimum, the industry would be able to meet the risk-based capitalization requirement," said Emilio de Quiros, president of the Philippine Life Insurance Association. "I think we will not have problems complying with that."

According to a regulation which the Insurance Commission issued last year, the capitalization requirement for insurance companies will increase every year until 2013. The amount of increase will depend on the amount of foreign equity infused in the firm.

Insurance firms with a higher amount of foreign equity shall be imposed a higher capitalization requirement.

But the commission has also slightly eased the regulation by providing a way for an insurance firm to be exempted from the hike in capitalization requirement.

Insurance commissioner Evangelina Escudero said the implementation of the insurance code's capitalization requirement until 2011 and the risk-based into requirement was intended to curtail financial disruptions among insurance firms.

RP may emerge on top of tuna trade

By Ramon F. Dumlao

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY is launching next week a four-day trade fair in General Santos City to promote the One Tuna Per Product (OTop) initiative in Mindanao, and tuna the country's one of the world's top tuna exporters.

According to Commissioner Jose Mari Luis Valentin chair of the Board's committee on fisheries, the Philippines is likely to emerge as the world's No. 1 tuna producer once the government's massive one-year OTop marketing-and-branding campaign are tailored fishing ports, and several priority foreign market access for the high-value products.

Citing data from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Villafuerte said the country's tuna catch in 2006 totalled more than 800,000 tons, which exceeded 10 percent of the world's total yield of 4 million tons.

Trade Undersecretary Lorina C. Evangelista said in an interview that the Gerdan OTop fair was also part of a series of trade shows designed to encourage towns in the regions to develop products and services that are unique to them.

In Gerdan, the OTop features are tuna products, as which fall mainly to large-scale firms are engaged in processing and exports.

Activities of these firms not only benefit those directly employed but also thrive on linkages to other industries such as deep-sea fishing, cold storage, packaging, transportation and communication as well as retail," Evangelista said.

The fair of Mindanao's tuna industry could help push the country's standing in the global market since it is general mainly for export.

The city's OTop items product some 3,000 metric tons yearly, ringing up $3.6 million in exports sales yearly and P50 million in domestic revenue.

Evangelista said the Department of Trade and Industry is also preparing for a first-ever OTop national congress.

She said this is a warm to a big OTop event next year when the originators of the concept—Hirohiko Shimatsu, former governor of Oita prefecture where the One Village One Product campaign began—would visit the country to deal out unique experiences in OTop as well as share achievements of other countries.

Winning Transco bidder to get financing support from IFC

By Abigail L. Ho

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE Corp., the private-sector arm of the World Bank, is willing to provide financing support to whoever will win the bidding for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession, which is scheduled for auction in December.

IFC acting country manager for the Philippines and Thailand John Ang said financing support would range from $200 million to $250 million.

"We're looking forward to working with the winning bidder. That will certainly be cornerstone investment for us because the amount is huge," Ang told reporters.

He did not disclose in what form the financing support would come, however, but said IFC was looking at "all the instruments available."

In a letter to Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. last year, IFC said it was willing to provide debt financing, quasi-equity or equity investments in the winning Transco bidder.

The extension of financing support, however, would be subject to certain conditions, including "some level of comfort" with the winning bidder, the approval of the IFC board, the execution of mutually satisfactory documentation, and the completion of legal, technical and financial due diligence.

Finance Secretary and PHILRI chair Margarito Teves earlier said PHILRI was hoping shows more "investor-friendly" provisions in the bidding documents for the concession agreement.

Without citing specifics, he said a number of refinements in the terms of reference should solve investor appetite.

Teves hinted that the refinements included "smoothing about the joint liability" issue raised by the bidders in the last auction.

The proposed bidding documents should be completed by September, he said.

But the chief item since 2003, the Feb. 5 bidding for the Transco concession was declared a failure when only one of the three pre-qualified bidders—the group composed of Citadel Holdings Corp. (60 percent) and Today's Water (BVI) (40 percent)—submitted a technical and financial bid.

Asian currency unit shaping up

By Doris C. Dumlao

SEOUL—THE PROPOSED unified Asian currency unit (ACU) is moving forward with Southeast Asia plus China, Korea and Japan at the core of the initiative formed recently to negotiate, as a Cambodian official advised to the Asian development bank said.

Alfred Steinherr, chief of the macroeconomic unit of DFW Berlin, Germany's biggest and oldest think tank, told visiting journalists from Asia and Africa that the proposed monetary integration was shaping up along the lines of the US-wing Mid initiative of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) plus three.

Asean includes the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, Brunei, Laos, Burma and Cambodia.

He, however, warned that this would take a long and difficult process for the region.

Steinherr said certain steps had already been taken, but that he wouldn't tell when economic integration would actually happen.

The region's muddiness earlier, Japan is the prime cause of the MOF effort but "the opposite of the leader" in China, he noted.

He said the initiative had been moving forward despite the lack of support from the United States or the International Monetary Fund. He added that the initiative was borne out of painful lessons from the Asian currency crisis of 1997 and the region's disappointment with the IMF's role.

"Since then, Asia is more reflecting on how to cooperate within Asia and become less dependent on the multilateral institutions," Steinherr said.

Over the long term, he said, the economic and financial cooperation within Asean plus 3 would evolve into something like the European monetary union, which took 30 years to take off.

He said it would likely be more difficult for them because there were only a few big economies and a lot of small ones, unlike the euro zone which has four similarly sized economies—Germany, France, Italy and the UK.

However, he said it was possible to "test run" the region and keep the initiative within a realistic corridor.

Under the Chiang Mai initiative, Asean plus 3 pledged to focus on economic and financial cooperation to ward off speculative attacks on their currencies, mostly via bilateral swap arrangements.

Under the currency swaps, an Asian country hit by a foreign exchange crisis could borrow foreign currency—mostly US dollars—from another country to bolster its reserves until the crisis was over.

Gov't sees ₱99B in additional VAT collection next year

To boost chances of hitting a balanced budget

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTing to collect P99.06 billion in additional taxes from the Reformed Value Added Tax Law (ZPAT) next year.

This would be 21 percent higher than the P468.68-billion projected revenue from RVAT this year.

The additional VAT collection is supposed to help the government meet its goal of achieving a balanced budget position next year.

RVAT, which took effect in November 2005, was considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda. It expanded the VAT coverage and raised the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent effective February last year.

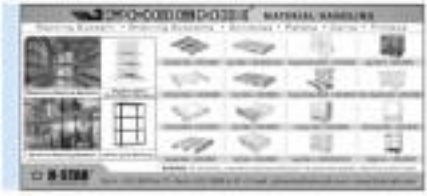
The targeted additional VAT collections will account for 9 percent of the P1.1 trillion revenue/collection target of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs should collect by next year.

The implementation of the RVAT was credited for helping the national government substantially trim its deficit last year and help the Philippines get a better outlook from credit ratings agencies.

All major ratings firms—Moody's Investor Service, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings—revised their outlook on the Philippines from "stable" to "positive," noting the government's political will to implement the RVAT, which was an unpopular measure.

The ratings firms thought were one in saying that they have yet to see last year's fiscal improvements sustained in the coming years. The government's fiscal managers believe that putting a balanced budget by next year and trimming the debt, which stands at around P3.9 trillion, were essential to win the favor of credit rating firms.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said, however, that the aim of improving the government's fiscal condition was and to achieve a higher credit rating, but to have more room in the budget for vital expenditures.



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CISCO

DOE confirms Shell's Biofuels Law compliance

PILIPINAS SHELL (AA) CHMOR-ated to the Department of Energy to compliance with the Biofuels Law which prescribes blending of at least 1 percent of biodiesel in all diesel engine fuels sold in the country.

This was done on the first day of the implementation of the Biofuels Law on May 7, when a DOE team conducted a spot inspection at the Batangas depot.

The distribution team of Pilipinas Shell, headed by Ruth Quintanes, explained to the inspection team its implementation strategy. Coconut methyl ester (CME) is blended with diesel onsite using an automated microblender. A certification was then presented to DOE, showing that Shell Diesel fits Micro contains 1 percent CME, based on the results of a Pinch Laboratory Analysis Report. This means that all diesel engine fuels sold at Shell service stations are already compliant with the newly implemented Biofuels Law.

For other depots, CME is blended at the Batangas Refinery and then shipped out.

Shell's compliance with the Biofuels Law was confirmed by the energy department.

CEB now flies to Taipei

CEBU PACIFIC (CEB), THE country's leading domestic airline, started flying direct to Taipei from Manila last June 15.

The new service is scheduled to operate daily to and from the Chiang Kai Shek International Airport in Taipei.

CEB's 170-seater Airbus A320 aircraft will be used for this service. The flight leaves Manila at 11:30 a.m., arriving in Taipei at 1:30 p.m. The flight then departs from Taipei at 3:55 p.m. and arrives in Manila at 5:55 pm.

"We hope that with the low fares and the convenient schedule for this new destination, we will be able to attract both business and leisure travelers from Taipei," Candice Iyog, CEB VP for marketing and products, said.

The lowest "Go!" fare to Taipei starts from P3,999 one way. Interested travelers may book their tickets via through CEB's website (www.cebupacificair.com).

Phoenix inks supply deal

DMAHC, ONE OF MAJOR petroleum products refiners in the United Arab Emirates, recently signed a supply agreement with Phoenix Global Mercantile Inc. (PGMC), a wholly owned subsidiary of emerging independent oil player and seeks to be listed Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc. (PPPI).

PGMC general manager and PPPI director for fabricants and chemicals Alberto Ma-ali said the agreement called for Phoenix Petroleum to distribute high-grade fabricant lubricants through select Phoenix Petroleum retail outlets throughout the country.

AJ Trucon lubricants are blended at the Middle East Lubricants Co. in Dubai, UAE.

PPPI plans to establish a strategic distribution network in the country specifically for the product as it projects bringing in 150,000 liters of fabricant lubricants per month.

Phoenix Petroleum is engaged in the business of trading refined petroleum products, lubricants and other chemical products, operation of oil depots and storage facilities, and allied services, mainly in Southern Philippines.

Robinsons buys 1-ha lot, eyes mixed-use complex

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

PROPERTY DEVELOPER ROBINSONS LAND Corp. (RLC) said it has signed an agreement with Professional Services Inc. (PSI) to purchase a one-hectare lot at the old site of The Medical City in Mandaluyong City.

RLC said in a disclosure to the stock exchange that it plans to transform the lot into a mixed-use complex consisting of high rise residential towers, a commercial center and a hotel.

The company did not disclose how much it paid for the lot.

For the residential condos, units may be available in one, two and three-bedroom units to target PE-inn-lems, professionals, investors and expatriates, RLC said in a statement.

The site offers access to malls, major business hotels, exclusive schools, restaurants, gyms, banks, business establishments and media city thoroughfares.

The latest acquisition signals the continuation strategic land banking for the highly diversified conglomerate—considered by its executives a must.

RLC has several prime properties in Ortigas led by its flagship mall, the Robinsons Galleria, five-star Crowne Plaza Hotel, Medical Center Manila, Galleria Regency, Robinsons Equitable Tower, Galleria Corporate Center and the soon to be restored land of Galleria Residences.

RLC is the real-estate arm of JG Summit Holdings Inc., (JGSH), one of the country's largest conglomerates with interests in branded consumer foods, agro-industrial and commodity food products, textile, telecommunications, petrochemicals, air transportation and financial services.

Market ...

By Jonathan D.L.

All Capital Securities said in a weekly report that investments in the US bond market still declined marked.

"Stocks fared weak initially fell when the yield on the US 10-year Treasury note soared to a five-year high of 5.205 percent," All Capital Securities said.

However, renewed concerns were raised when economic data from the US showed benign inflation and modest growth," All Capital added. "This prompted rest of the strongest two-day rally in the US market."

Last week, the Philippine market also soared and reached a new all-time high, closing at 3,671.39.

It posted a gain of 144.56 points or 4.1 percent week-on-week.

All Capital noted that worries on interest rates emerged last week as US bond yields suddenly soared.

"Higher interest rate can slow down the flow of money to the market and the economy," All Capital said. —Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacuna

Sustaining 6.9 percent

IS THE ECONOMY HOOKED ON A cliff? Recent reports would seem to suggest so.

Gross national income, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) reportedly rose by 6.9 percent in the first three months of 2007.

Last Friday, unemployment rate was reported to have dropped to 7.4 percent in April, against last year's 8.2 percent. The broad money standard has soared to all-time high last week, with the index now approaching 3,739. Other hits and pieces of good news on the economy have been coming my way lately, although these continues to be a side of some bad news with the good.

Sources of growth

When news on the first quarter growth came out two weeks ago, the questions on people's mind seemed to be: Is it true? Is it sustainable? Perhaps one best indicators is used to bad news lately that seemingly good news is seen by most of us to be either too good to be true, or too good to last.

In addressing these questions objectively, the key thing to look would be where the supposed growth in the economy is coming from.

On the production side, growth was boosted, as usual, by the services sector, which grew by 9.1 percent. Strongest drivers of this sector were finance (11.4 percent growth), transport, communication and storage (10.6 percent) and wholesale and retail trade (9.1 percent). Private services, which include entertainment, and recreation, grew 6.9 percent, while government services grew at its fastest in recent memory, at 7.1 percent.

Meanwhile, industry grew by a respectable 5.3 percent, whereas agriculture continued to trail behind with a 4.2 percent growth. The last, however, is still good news as it is a dramatic recovery from the skimpy 1.7 percent growth posted by the farm sector in the last quarter of last year.

Who's buying?

The above numbers raise the economy's growth from the supply-side.

The other perspective to look from is the demand or expenditure side. I.e. who's been been buying the goods and services produced by the economy and how that has such demand been growing.

We've often heard it said that our economy's growth is propelled mostly by people's consumption spending (5.9 percent growth in the first quarter), aided to a large extent by income from overseas remittances.

The consumer indeed remains irreplaceable by the bulk of the economy's purchase of goods and services. But what really pushed overall growth beyond everyone's including government's expectations were two things: government consumption, which grew by 10.1 percent, and imports, which grew by 8.1 percent.

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

If these two components which control growths itself behind. The economy with its 6.9 percent. Then, there were the terms first gave us the unexpected boost well beyond the 5.2-5.8 percent growth expected by both government and private analysts.

Government expenditures—the stimulating component of expenditures said to many, the most important one—hardly grew at all, posting a mere 0.8 percent growth.

In fact, investments to shoulder equipment continued to fall (-0.4 percent), which is bad news considering that has contributed here falling by over two years now. It was only a double-digit growth (14.6 percent) in government credit in less that gave overall investment the push to make its growth slightly positive.

Too good to last?

I will not address the matters of whether the 6.9 percent GDP growth is too good to be true, as I know the people in our statistical agencies to be honorable professionals.

There remains the question on the reliability of our statistics on manufacturing, highlighted by the contradiction between very major sources of data on the sector, but we can be assured by the government statisticians that they have been addressing the problem.

But will the 6.9-percent growth last? I sense through the above macro-economic considerations that the growth presently to help to answer this question.

What clearly propelled the surprising growth were seasonally high government spending (public construction and government consumption, which grew 10.1 and 10.1 percent respectively) and good export growth (9.1 percent).

Unless you were born yesterday, it's plain to see that the May elections were responsible for that 10.1 percent. But even the slightly better private consumption growth must have been pushed up by the massive spending on election campaign season—not to mention vote-buying.

The problem is, none on government revenues has yet been spent lately. Rather, the government is now geared to spend as freely as it did in the first quarter.

Export slowdown

The other propellant of the growth had been exports. Here, the short-term outlook doesn't look encouraging either. Latest reports data show a significant slowdown in April to just 5 percent growth.

Such a slowdown had been expected, due to generally slower demand in the global economy...and we rely on this industry for two-thirds of our exports.

This tells me that it is investments we need to work hard on.

Foreign investments are not a problem, and could you data tell us that they have been proven phenomenally in the past year or so. It is the stakes put in by domestic investors that needs a big boost.

Will the continuing worries of good news finally turn these sentiments around? Let's hope so. But I can still foresee now that sustaining 6.9 percent through the rest of 2007 will be a long shot. Comments are welcome at chabito@inlanes.com.

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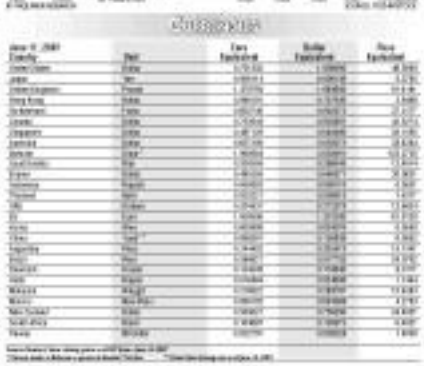

Shell seen opting for refinery upgrade

By Abigail L. Ho

Expansion of existing facilities expected to cost much more

PILIPINAS SHELL PETROLEUM CORP. is expected to spend about $1.1 billion to upgrade its existing refinery to pave the way for an increase in country production of clean Air Act-compliant fuels.

An industry source said the amount needed for the refinery upgrade should be at about the same level as that spent by Petron Corp. for its own refinery upgrading project.

Two years ago, Petron inaugurated its new facilities at its Bataan refinery worth $ 800 million. These made the oil company the first in the country to be able to produce its own Clean Air Act-compliant fuels.

Petron's gasoil hydrocracker and light ...ergin naphtha reformation unit can produce 22,000 barrels and 13,000 barrels a day, respectively, of CAA-compliant diesel and gasoline.

Another $200 million was earmarked for the oil firm's clean-coal facility Master Plan, which would enable it to extract petrochemicals for both the local and regional markets.

Asked for confirmation, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said he had been informed that the results of the refinery study, which was commissioned by the oil company, should be out by the third quarter.

Shell's decision whether to expand its refinery or to just upgrade would depend on the results of that study, he said.

"It is not in the same scale as the refinery expansion that they were looking at before, but they will have to upgrade their refinery. It will still be a multi-billion peso project," he said.

He did not give specific investment figures but, in an earlier interview, he had said a refinery expansion would cost ...tal investments of as much as $1 billion to $1.5 billion.

If a refinery upgrade would be less costly, considering Petron's total outlay of around $400 million.

Lotilla had earlier said that Shell's parent firm, Royal Dutch Shell Plc, had concerns regarding the current incentive schemes in the downstream oil sector.

"What they want is for those incentives that were made available at the time they came in to still be available throughout the life of their investment," he said.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua said earlier that a tariff differential could be a big help from the government.

Philam Life

Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU)	
	as of 6/7/07	as of 6/8/07
Philamlife Equity Fund	1.0881	1.0850
Philamlife Fixed Income Fund	1.3134	1.3107
Philamlife Balanced Fund	1.1020	1.1012
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	1.1872	1.1851
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	1.1981	1.1958

*For more current prices, call 845-8888 or go to www.philamlife.com

FTI sale pushed; more small food terminals sought

By Amy R. Remo

THE 120-HECTARE FOOD TERMINAL sale for facility in Taguig is a good and valid concept, but it is very ahead of its time, said an official of the Gold Chain Association of the Philippines.

"FTI holds a strategic relevance and importance on Metro Manila. Taguig is a good location for this facility and this project is too big," said GCAP president Anthony Otrok.

"If we were to build something so big as that, it has to be somewhere else," he added.

Otrok said there was no other option but to privatize the facility or sell the land.

This is similar to the decision of the Department of Agriculture to reject proposals to resell the FTI property to its original purpose and put it up for sale.

The facility was designed as a food processing and commodities center for agriculture products.

As the only agro-industrial commercial center located in the heart of Metro Manila, FTI houses more than 300 small- to medium-scale companies involved in food manufacturing, electronics, garments and service industries.

"What we should do is to build smaller terminals and facilities like FTI in various parts of the country such as Central Luzon, Bicol, Western Visayas or Mindanao, where they are needed," Otrok said.

What's important, he said, was to build these centers close to either the source of the produce or the markets' end consumers.

Otherwise, he said, these storage facilities would be underutilized, while the farmers would end up selling their excess produce to the highways or stock fruits.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier said the department was planning to break up big processing and consolidation centers and put up more smaller centers in various provinces nationwide.

Yap also said that proceeds from the sale of the FTI property would be used to invest in smaller regional processing centers in Ilocos Mindanao, Davao, southern Mindanao, western Visayas, eastern Visayas, Regions I and 2, and Central Luzon.

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DA shows off new 'poster boys'

SOME ARE THE DAYS WHEN FILIPINO farmers are encouraged as unsung hardluck stowaways in stained, tattered clothes.

The face of the Filipino farmer must be replaced with images of successful farmers, whose outstanding feats should be replicated across the country, said Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap.

The Department of Agriculture has recently identified its "poster boys"—five farmer entrepreneurs whose impressive feats, according to Yap, can help ensure the sustainability of agricultural growth.

Yap said these achievements would become the "linchpin" of the department's five-point program, which aims to raise productivity and increase farmers' income.

He said these farmers include Asuncion Villanueva Jr. from Davao Inc., who earns P500,000 annually from his 2.5-hectare orchard; Jose Estela of Nueva Ecija, who produces 260 cavans of rice a harvest, which is about three times more than the national average of 75 cavans; and Roberto Bailon of Zamboanga Sibugay, who has transformed his cacao of Kabasalan into a major cash and export crop for Pagadian, Zamboanga, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.

Isabela farmers Rogelio Bumagat, who has acquired tractors and jeepneys from his cacao earnings, and Philippe Andrew Maranda, who earns about P600,000 a hectare from growing eggplant, bell peppers, pumpkin and other vegetables, should likewise be emulated, he added.

Those model farmers were presented in a media forum where the agriculture secretary explained his five-point program, which focuses on higher public spending for infrastructure, technology and extension services, postharvest and storage facilities, expansion of access to rural credit, and expansion of market access here and abroad.

"In all the interactions and dialogues I have participated, I have observed that the outmost trait that drives these champion farmers is the 'push motive'," Yap said.

He explained that these farmers had asked the right question when they asked "How much can I earn from what I produce?" rather than "How much can I produce?"

Emulating the feats of these successful farmers would help the agriculture sector increase its annual growth from the current average of 3.4 percent to at least 5.4 percent in the next 10 years.

It would also help achieve agriculture growth targets of 4-5 percent this year and a higher 7-8 percent in 2008. —Amy R. Remo

YAP

PSE cites surge in foreign buying

From page B1

...local traders maintain their sense of uncertainty and sobriety."

Other market indicators also reflected investors' bullish sentiment.

Lim noted that, as the end of May 2007, total market capitalization hit the P9.0-trillion mark. The amount was 13.7 percent higher than the P7.97-trillion total market capitalization as the end of 2006.

Of the total, market capital of local domestic companies reached P6.3-trillion, or 22.3 percent higher than its P5.16-trillion level at the end of 2006. Lim noted also that the first time market capitalization of domestic listed companies hit the P6-trillion mark.

"Other market contributors to advance as investor inflow more funds to our market," Lim said. "This is shown by the dramatic surge in our value turnover."

Total value turnover during the first five months of the year reached P409.36 billion, or 134.1 percent more than the P213.41-billion posted during the same period last year.

Average daily value turnover from January to May expanded by 134.7 percent to P4.86 billion from the P2.03 billion of last year.

"The continued interest of foreign investors will definitely play a key role in our bid to sustain the market's drive to new highs," Lim said. "But we must local investors to join us once can also enjoy the benefits from the market's advances.

"I am, in fact, very happy to note that, while foreign transactions continue to go up, local buying posted a more impressive jump," Lim said.

Based on PSE data, local buying for the first months of the year tripled to P219.2 billion from the P73.1 billion of the same period last year.

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Go ahead, jazz up your phone

By Abigail L. Ho

THE WORLD'S ADDICTION to the mobile phone has turned the device into more than just a communications tool. The cellular phone can now be considered a status symbol, a security blanket and even a representation of the user's identity.

Because of this, many mobile phone users across the globe are spending considerable amounts to jazz up their devices with accessories ranging from the simple to the high-tech.

According to Sino Bank ABS Research, global spending on mobile phone accessories will reach more than $12.5 billion this year, even more than the $10 billion in revenues expected from the booming music phone market.

Of this amount, 77 percent will come from sales of "after market" accessories, said the industry from "in-box" accessory shipments, a study titled "Mobile Phone Accessories" states.

Some examples of handset accessories are Bluetooth headsets and earpieces, wireless keyboards, charging solutions, car kits, speakers, carrying cases, housings, stands, and even cellphone "jewelry."

ABI Research industry analyst Shailendra Shinde said technological advancements and the increasing demand for handset personalization would continue to prompt accessories manufacturers to roll out new products.

"Handset vendors and mobile operators are showing greater interest, as accessories provide high margins and also opportunities to promote their brand and expand their product offerings. The growing interest among mobile operators is also driven by the realization that mobile phone accessories can lead to higher [average revenue per user]," she said.

She said handset makers now recognized that the availability of cellphone accessories would help boost sales of their high-end mobile phones and smartphones, as these helped users to fully exploit the features of their wireless devices.

Leading manufacturer Nokia is addressing the handset accessories market by coming out with "mobile enhancements" products. Motorola, on the other hand, is capitalizing on the "personalization" and "self-expression" trends.

By 2012, ABI Research expects revenues from mobile handset accessories to hit more than $166 billion.

"The continuing convergence and further advancements in technology, coupled with the increasing desire of customers to personalize their handsets, bodes well for the future of the market," the study says.

Power tool does everything a PC can—plus call

By Rica T. Obrisandro

NOK FROM HERE, DON'T TRY this at home.

The Dopod 838Pro is a well-equipped, 3G-enabled PC phone that is comparatively priced, considering its "internet" and connectivity options.

Assets

It is touted as the first Windows Mobile PC phone that features HSDPA (High-Speed Downlink Packet Access), 3G (UMTS), quadband GSM support, EDGE, Infrared, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi.

Having Windows Mobile 5.0, means you can access and edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents, browse the Web using Internet Explorer, and play music and videos on the latest Windows Media Player.

Navigating the phone is easy with the five-way navigation button found outside a scroll wheel on the left side, and a hidden QWERTY keypad that slides out. An added convenience is the "OK" button on the left hand side that takes you straight back to the main page.

For picture and video taking, the 838Pro has a high-resolution two-megapixel sensor and flat 400MHz batching processor. It also has a flash feature for short-distance shots. Added coverage can be had with a microSD card.

For 3G video calls, the device uses a 0.3 megapixel camera found up front.

Voice recordings are also a breeze and a joy to play back with the quality speakers.

The 838 Pro's 4-inch screen is large enough for viewing Web pages and documents without having to squint. When the QWERTY keypad is slid out, the device automatically puts the screen into landscape mode. In dark surroundings, the screen backlight is turned on. The screen is also touch sensitive, so a stylus would be easy to use.

Liabilities

Being an advanced phone, it is mainly aimed for business users who have changed devices a few times, so reading notes that can on mobile Web down 5.0.

There is no text recognition function, but "shadow search" handwriting will not work. Finally, the battery lasts for 200 hours on standby and around three hours of talk time, but this is significantly reduced when the power hungry Wi-Fi adapter is turned on. So if you want to surf using Wi-Fi, you better have the charger with you.

Bottom line

All the cool features don't come cheap—the 838 Pro sells for under P30,000.

All things considered, the Dopod 838Pro is a power tool that balances features so that the business user is not left hanging in the middle of a call or use of applications. You need a bag to carry it around, but it is worth the investment.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

Folks and kids take the spotlight in TeleTech Family Tour Day 2007

HTC-H LAUNCHES SIMULATOR TRAINING FACILITIES

BAKED IN STORYLINES AND FOOTSTEPS! Rollicking with fun-filled moments are not just evidently scenes in tall corners. One Sunday afternoon, however, members of TeleTech employees in Cainta and Mandaluyong City cheerfully and cheerful tour guides to their families and friends. They welcomed them into their equally cheery and colorful nooks of their workplace along with interactive, fun-filled activities like face-painting, caricature sessions, dancing, eating, drinking and touring TeleTech's beautifully designed offices in celebration of TeleTech's Family Tour Day 2007.

This is the country's fastest growing business process outsourcing (BPO) company wanting to share the importance of family to their employees. It is, therefore, no surprise that for the past three years TeleTech has been opening its doors once a year to employees' families and friends.

At the Family Tour Day, TeleTech managers, team leaders and associates mingled with their other during the rest of the noisy and at the picnic tents set up outside the building. It was one full day of learning, fellowship, and fun.

Nona Sanchez, training manager at TeleTech Cainta's facility, expressed her elation over the Family Tour Day because it gave her the chance to have her kids and husband see her office and to have after the spends most of her work hours.

"I'm very glad and grateful that TeleTech holds events like this because it shows that the employee really values us and our families," Nona said.

A mother of two, Nona dutifully finds a balance between her personal and professional life. Nona is like the thousands of TeleTech employees who have to give equal time for work and personal pursuits.

Family members can be themselves the well thought out design of TeleTech's facility with its recreational areas, game rooms, and food outlets. "When we build our facilities, we have our employees' welfare in mind," said Mandy Pepito, vice president and general manager of TeleTech Philippines. "Our aim for employees is diverse in the homey feel of our meeting areas, relaxing employee lounges, and adequately furnished game rooms."

Eric Estrada, English language manager, believes that the Family Tour Day worked wonders for both the company and the employees' families.

"This event has created a more harmonious relationship among employees, their families, and the management," Eric explained. He shares, "Even their family members see their hard jobs now somewhat is not work at TeleTech, spending greater sentiments to everyone that TeleTech is more than just a call center. "They will realize that TeleTech is the place for," Nona added.

Lanie Zeta, an operations associate who volunteered to conduct the site tours for families says, "I felt great showing our guests around the site and pointing out unique amenities such as the sleeping rooms and shower rooms!" With over 2,000 employees working at the TeleTech Mandaluyon center, she ended up doing 10 site tours! "I was trying but in the end it was so fulfilling. I saw the smile in the faces of my parents and siblings while I was doing the site tours. Will I do it again next year? Absolutely!" Lanie beams.

It is important to TeleTech's outstanding employees who serve as part of its important goals and objectives is the award given by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) distinguished Board of Judges as the "Outstanding Employee of the Year" among 20 BPO companies nationwide.

TeleTech is the thoroughly passionate employees' efforts which contributed to the millions of US dollars that are invested in the country's economy by generating thousands of jobs to the country.

"I believe the Family Tour Day plays all of our employees that sense of pride in their workplace and their job. This is an event we consider as a way to show our appreciation to them for their passion and as an industry leader we can do more than proud to share with the rest of the business process outsourcing industry," Mandy said.

MARK BAUTISTA, LE FROGE CONTRACT SIGNING

Mark Bautista endorses Le Frogge's short-sleeved that hugged the collar as the Boys know opposite to her year's Philippine Fashion Awards. Like Mark, Le Frogge is cool as it is. The subcontinent, versatile and stylish—perfect for boys to their teens who want to be fashionable yet trendy. To showcase what Le Frogge has in store for its market, Mark Bautista will be featured in all collection of Le Frogge this year as well as in the Le Frogge billboard along Edsa. As the new Le Frogge billboard stars. Every now and then, a new "mark" of fashion emerges. Whether most of them this year with the newest fashion in Philippine fashion. Present during the Le Frogge contract signing are from left: Mark Bautista, Le Frogge owners Marilyn and Jojo Sy, and Dominique del Rosario-Corpuz, general manager of Hot Artists Agency Inc.

Franchise expo to showcase local, foreign biz opportunities

TWO BIG HALLS OF THE WORLD TRADE Center are primed to turn into a powerhouse of business opportunities when Franchise Expo 2007 is held from July 6 to 8 by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), with the full support of the Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation, and the World Franchise Council.

The expo, according to PFA chair Ricky S. Limpoco, is also backed by the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Philippine Retailers Association, all pooling their minds and resources to offer as many opportunities as possible to small and medium enterprises and aspiring entrepreneurs across a wide range of businesses.

"Franchise 2007 will showcase highly successful homegrown, foreign, and international brands, allied and support services, new but tested business concepts, and many other access for profitable tried-and-tested franchise and franchising," Limpoco explained.

"The expo will also feature a series of emerging businesses for those who want to enter the market, an incubation area for young entrepreneurs, and a PFA lounge where visitors can get free professional consultancy on many issues, including the legal aspects of franchising, intellectual property rights, and taxation, among many others.

Likewise, franchise seminars will be held at the World Trade Center during the expo's three-day run.

The expo is designed for new entrepreneurs, budding entrepreneurs, and established SMEs who are looking for lucrative but viable businesses with long-term prospects for growth and expansion whether locally or abroad.

"There will be so many opportunities at the expo that visitors can choose which investment requirement he can afford to his preferred line of business," Limpoco said.

Last year's expo generated almost 15,000 visitors and more than P200 million worth of businesses. For this year, it is expected to post a new record in visitor attendance and volume of business generated.

Other expo details can be obtained from exhibit manager Ben Ikaro (632-8361 to 40, loc 850-8246, or e-mail mktg@worldtrade.com), or the PFA Secretariat (687-8361 to 69 ext. 4 or mail pfa@hotmail.com).

Filipiniana on demand

By Rica T. Chikiamco

FILIPINANA USED TO BE SYNONYMOUS TO FIBS, especially Spanish-era documents written originally for nuestros hermanos.

The Internet has a new user-friendly site called Filipiniana.net, a research portal on the Philippines that gathers and publishes scanned, unpublished or out-of-print materials in English, Spanish and Filipino languages, as well as local dialects.

Filipiniana.net is the brainchild of Gaspar Filipino the textbook giant Filipi Publishing.

Library, research portal

The site is a free digital library and online research portal that houses a comprehensive collection of Philippine-related documents—from the declaration of independence to original Spanish text to rare works down to out-of-figures.

Filipi said the idea for Filipiniana.net germinated around December 2006, after he returned from various publishing stints in New York and was joined by his mother Lydia Gaspar-Filipino to the Philippines (but for your passion are about.

Filipi then had the "mad" idea of giving many books—as digital form.

Digital era

"I told my mother that I wanted to give away books for free. At first she was shocked, but when I explained the idea of making important books available, she liked the idea—that is, that you don't have to go to the library anymore, the library comes to us," he said.

Filipi said he was inspired by Project Gutenberg, a site established by American Michael Hart that publishes new titles can be accessed for free.

He set out to work and by November 2006, Filipiniana.net was up and unveiled before last year and academicians at the 19th International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) Conference.

From housing just books, documents, and images from Filipi personal Filipiniana collection, the site now houses Filipiniana from sources such as the National Library, Institute Cervantes and the University of the Philippines Library.

There are plans to open up a Master Philippine Bibliography that will boast of a complete and exhaustive annotation of the entire Philippine books, the digitizing of Blair and Robertson's 55-volume Philippine Islands, and the uploading of Sandoval-Sotoca Filipino, a collection of the best-loathed town-versus-town Filipino as purportedly literary rotto-folded lingos.

Unique, student-friendly

Filipi said the project has received its fair amount of criticism, mostly from librarians who cannot understand how text text can be made available online from books and documents that Filipi does not physically possess. There are also criticisms from those who think the site can be scammed when it gives away the text for free.

"We're not claiming to be the first to digitize books or give them away for free; we are encouraging researchers and readers here, the public, to access our site and this could give the opportunity to monetize our service later on," he said.

Despite the criticisms, Filipi said he likes latest from the fact that Filipiniana.net has been listed by online encyclopedia Wikipedia as among its top 10 most Philippine-based websites, alongside the University of the Philippines Library, LibrariesLink, and Philippine e-Library. Typing "Filipiniana" on Google yields the site as top result.

Filipi credits the site's popularity to the unique and student-friendly additions that the Filipiniana.net team has added.

Project Introduce you will simply upload a text file of the book, while Filipiniana.net has links to pages where a certain search term can be found, plus there is a study guide and annotation summary of every book," Filipi said.

The final version of Filipiniana.net is set to be launched at the March International Book Fair this August.

New Samsung phones out

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS RECENTLY launched its Ultra Edition II Series handsets, touted to be among the world's slimmest mobile phones.

The Ultra Edition II range consists of two stylish and feature-rich models—the Ultra Edition 10.9 (10000) and the 5.9 Ultra Edition 12.1 (5700), a metallic clamshell—the Ultra Edition 5.9 (5200), and a candy bar handset—the Ultra Edition 5.9 (5200).

Each model offers advanced features such as a 3.2 megapixel camera and video recorder, high-speed Internet connectivity, as well as connectivity with multimedia and media capabilities.

The Ultra Edition II range is slimmer and more powerful than the first edition with its advanced functions and improved design.

Exclusive to the Ultra Edition II range, Samsung's Optimized Power Usage Solution (Opus) lets these handsets (and those to come) by guaranteeing maximum performance with just enough talk time by 10 percent, power saving by 30 percent and battery capacity by 40 percent. Samsung's Smart Battery Saving Technology (SBST), which was initially developed for the Ultra Edition range, has also been an intrinsic design element for the Ultra Edition II range, indicating the number of recharged components, infrastructure and more.

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Analysts see opportunities

NEW YORK—TRIPLE CROWN SWINGS IN the Dow Jones Industrials the past two weeks might seem like a painful reminder of the volatility that dominated Wall Street in the early part of the decade. But the imbalance might actually reflect more productive times past.

Investors who shell-shocked after the tech-stock bubble burst in 2000 and sent stocks plummeting from record levels – often in 100-point-plus chunks as Wall Street reacted to events that also included the 2001 terror attacks, corporate and a string of corporate scandals. The mood back has been skew, confection of the market's every conservative stance.

Now, the sort of declines Wall Street has been seeing lately seem to be growing not just out of anxieties about interest rates or the economy, but out of investors second-guessing themselves.

The past two weeks, investor sold stocks off which they realized they'd gotten ahead of the Federal Reserve in expressing an interest rate-rise bias.

Peil Chuk Yoo Bernanke helped set off some of the triple-digit drops, others feared of the economy's health—something unlikely to help push the Fed toward a rate drop.

Stocks had surged during the spring on growing expectations that rates would indeed be coming down.

But Jack Ablin, senior financial analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman, said the market's growth in April and May was at an "unsustainable pace."

He argued that stocks needed to cool down a bit, and some of the recent drops were "one-way to do it."

By the middle of the past week, investors were taking another look, and, stirred by better than expected inflation data, realized they had again overdone it, this time on the downside.

So stocks regained much of their losses from the previous week.

This kind of back-and-forth motion in the market presumably has two important things, analysts said.

The most important is that it lets some air out of stocks that continue to test new highs, but it also shows investors aren't as exuberant about equities than they aren't afraid of a little consolidation.

Still, it's not to say the market isn't capable of great nervousness—it did, after all, tumble 416.02, 27, taking the Dow Industrials down 416 points as investors reacted to rumors including a sweep drop in Chinese stocks and a statement from former Fed chief Alan Greenspan that the US could be headed toward recession.

But investors might also have learned something from that plunge, which now appears more than a little out of proportion to the economic reality. Corporate profits are not in the same precarious state they were six and seven years ago.

A series of smaller declines might accomplish the same thing as a precipitous drop—bring the market down to earth—without doing as much psychic damage.

"We're not convinced that the situation we were in during 2000," said Scott Wren, senior equity strategist at AG Edwards & Sons. "You need to take a look at the fundamentals, weigh the uncertainties, and try to draw a conclusion—and most of all take advantage of those pullbacks."

AP

Yields, rates dominate world market landscape

LONDON—THE URGENT RUSH IN global bond yields will again dominate financial markets this week as investors look to US housing data and German business and investment sentiment indicators for clues to the next leg in growth and interest rate.

Benchmark 10-year US, euro-zone and UK government bond yields hit multi-year highs last week as investors shifted positions dramatically on prior to remarks and testimony against a backdrop of strong global growth.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand stunned markets this week with a quarter-point hike to 8 percent.

In the case of the Federal Reserve, all bets are on to cut this year have been abandoned.

A Reuters poll last week showed US interest rates holding steady through 2008, versus in May when a quarter point cut was in the cards.

"In the US we'll be looking for markets to confirm the slowdown seen in the January trough. But even anything minor in the market is going to be incredibly sensitive."

The rise in US bond yields has lifted the dollar, especially against the low-yielding yen.

Last Friday, the dollar hit at a 1-1/2-year high against the Japanese currency after the Bank of Japan kept rates on hold at 0.5 percent and gave no clear signal it will raise them soon.

Today sees the US National Association of Home Builders index measure for June. A Reuters poll points to a reading of 30, unchanged from last month and at the bottom of a cycle reached last October.

On Tuesday US housing starts data will come out. A Reuters poll indicates a 1.48-million annual rate of housing starts, down from the 1.5 month.

"Investors lowly are obsessed, homebuilder optimism remains very weak, and housing demand is uncertain despite the rise in new home sales in April," said RBC in a research note.

Investors will also be watching German business and investor sentiment when the IFO and ZEW indices are released on Tuesday and Friday, respectively.

Reuters polls show a forecast rise last month in the ZEW economic sentiment to 19 in June from 16, but a slight dip in current conditions to 67.5 from 68.

The June IFO data will come out on Friday, and as shown in a Reuters poll stands nearly unchanged from the previous month's record all-time measure of business climate, current conditions and expectations.

"Encouragingly, German trade data ... suggests that external demand may be recovering from the weak first quarter," Goldman Sachs said in a research note.

Sweden's central bank holds a policy meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday and a 25-basis point rise to 3.5 percent, the highest since March 2001, is seen as certain.

As far as policymakers' commentary is concerned, there will be speeches from European Central Bank president Jean-Claude Trichet in Montreal on Monday and BOJ governor Toshihiko Fukui in Tokyo on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Bank of England will release the minutes of its rate meeting policy meeting. While the bank kept rates on hold at 5.5 percent, analysts expect the minutes to point to more interest rate hikes in the months ahead.

"We may see a hawkish vote for a rate increase, but nothing significant over the last meeting," said ING Investment Mutual.

Reuters

Oil hovers at $68/barrel

NEW YORK—CRUDE OIL FUtures settled at $68 a barrel last Friday, their highest close since September, while gasoline futures extended their rally, raising the prospect that prices at the pump will stabilize and possibly even rise after falling for several weeks.

Analysts say oil prices were boosted by unrest in the Middle East and a lower-than-expected new inflation figure, which encouraged investors to move money from fixed income investments to commodities. But oil futures also followed the lead of gas futures, said Andy Lebler, president of Liberty Trading Group, in Tampa, Florida.

Gas futures have risen several days this week after a generous report Wednesday that showed a surprise drop in inventories. Investors remained flat as refineries eased lots of their capacity than they had the week before.

The report was bullish for gasoline, but not for oil, which has been "in sympathy" with gas, Lebler said. That's because the refinery outages that are stripping gasoline supplies serve as a bottleneck for oil, which backs up behind the facilities waiting to be processed, he explained.

Lebler thinks oil can't remain a price this high, and should ease this week.

Light, sweet crude rose 35 cents on crude at $68 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for August delivery rose 15 cents to settle at $73.98 a barrel on London's ICE Futures exchange.

Meanwhile, retail gasoline prices, which typically lag the futures market, fell again by 1.6 cents overnight to a national average price of $3.026 a gallon (80 cents a liter), according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Prices peaked at $3.227 a gallon (85 cents a liter) on May 29.

"Unfortunately, I think this is about as good as it gets," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, predicting a higher price in the near future.

Gasoline futures in July jumped 3.54 cents to settle at $2.2681 a gallon on the Nymex.

Analysts and traders remained to react to Wednesday's report by the energy department's Energy Information Administration showing that refinery utilization, which had been expected to rise, fell 0.6 percentage point to 89.2 percent, the second straight weekly decline, as the week ended June 8.

Most analysts say refineries should be using 94 percent to 95 percent of their capacity at this time of year.

The report lulled any assurances that the domestic refining industry, hurt by an unusual number of outages this spring, has recovered.

Analysts have warned by months that the industry is not producing enough gasoline to meet summer driving demand, which typically peaks between the July 4 and Labor Day holidays.

On Friday there were new reports that Citgo Petrol, Texas, refinery owned by Venezuelan Energy Corp. and Flint Hills Resources were temporarily closing down equipment for maintenance.

AP

CONSTRUCTION workers climb on the scaffolding of a building site in Hefei, in China's Anhui province. China's urban fixed asset investment picked up 28.9 percent as of May, official data showed amid expectations the government will act soon to slow its juggernaut economy. —

Amazon value tops Google's

LOS ANGELES—TWO MOVIES AFTER Amazon.com Inc. posted first-quarter results that gave a boost to fresh optimism for a sign of improved earnings and profit margins, the online retailer's valuation is soaring—and perplexing many.

Trading at 53 times expected 2008 earnings, Amazon's valuation is more double that of Google Inc. and eBay, and nearly twice that of Apple Inc.

Amazon's rich valuation, which has historically ranged higher than most tech companies and well above brick-and-mortar rivals like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., is due to a confluence of factors involving a limited concentration of holdings, a period of intense investment, and an understandable faith in the company's future among some core investors, Wall Street says.

The company posted net earnings in last April after nearly breaking even, helped by large part by a lower tax rate, and raised its 2007 sales and operating income estimates.

But the share price, up 50 percent since earnings were announced, has grown faster than earnings expectations, boosted Amazon's price-to-earnings ratio to a dizzying level.

A unique psychology is at work when it comes to Amazon, argues Global Crown Capital's Martin Pyykkonen, who describes some of the company's bulls as having gone "off their rocker."

Amazon has put begun to decelerate spending on technology and content that has depressed earnings over the past few years in an investment spree this Fourmost many on Wall Street.

Another issue with Amazon's valuation may be that many shareholders have valuation, but rather, limiting the number of shares that are freely available to be bought and sold.

Chief executive Jeffrey Bezos has nearly 25 percent of Amazon's shares.

So the first floor that is left is relatively small, and even slight shifts in the company's fundamentals can spark a disproportionate move."

Reuters

New World Bank chief faces tough task of restoring trust

WASHINGTON—ROBERT ZOELLICK, the presumed next head of the World Bank, will shoulder the task of rebuilding trust in the development lender after a scandal at the top exposed deep divisions.

US President George W. Bush nominated Zoellick to succeed Wolfowitz, who was forced to resign over a favoritism scandal involving his companion, a bank employee.

Zoellick, a former US trade chief and deputy secretary of state and a vice chairman at Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs, was the sole candidate declared by Friday's deadline.

By tradition, the United States chooses the bank chief and European countries select the head of the sister institution, the International Monetary Fund.

Meanwhile, Zoellick is on a globe-trotting "listening" tour, meeting with political and social leaders to discuss the way forward for the 185-nation bank whose mission is to fight poverty in developing countries.

"There is no doubt that the institution has been through a period of turmoil and I think that one of the tasks of a new president will be to try to calm the waters," Zoellick said Wednesday after talks in Berlin with Germany's development minister, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul.

Wieczorek-Zeul was one of the most vocal European critics of Wolfowitz, a former US deputy defense secretary and an architect of the Iraq war.

Zoellick, who as US trade representative helped launch the World Trade Organization's Doha Round of trade talks in 2001, has built a reputation as an extremely bright but tough-as-nails technocrat.

While on his tour through Europe, Zoellick said the stalled WTO Doha round could be concluded.

A Republican, he would be "extraordinarily important for the world economy, for development, for growth, for creating opportunities than the round succeeds."

If confirmed as the 11th president of the World Bank, Zoellick must confront a divided staff and lost morale at the Washington-based institution, with some loudly opposing his nomination.

Wolfowitz was forced to announce his resignation in mid-May after the bank found he had broken rules in arranging lavish pay raises and promotions for his companion, a bank employee.

The bank's employee association pushed hard for his resignation.

The scandal reignited debates over the US grip on the presidential nomination, with critics, including non-government organizations and political leaders in developing countries and elsewhere, calling for a transparent, merit-based selection.

It also highlighted questions about the relevance of the 60-decade-old World Bank's role in a world that now relies increasingly on private and regional financing in poor economies.

Amidst the debate, the bank's operations is bound carry which of Wolfowitz's times stints will stay on when he leaves, according to The Washington Post, which uncovered the favoritism scandal. Of his years of five, four remain.

AFP

APPLE CEO Steve Jobs talks about the iPhone at the Apple World Wide Developers Conference in San Francisco. —

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LIFESTYLE

Back-to-'High School Musical'

The young cast of the Manila stage production of the Disney TV musical manages to join school with 'school'

AS THOUSANDS OF SCHOOL-age children troop back to their classrooms this month, many find company with the young cast of "High School Musical: On Stage," who are going back to school as well in real life. And with the staging of the ever-popular Disney TV movie, they have to juggle between classes and rehearsals.

Gabriella Montez, the female lead character of the musical, played by Glenda Ortega, just transferred schools. Despite her many achievements in her past school, Gabriella is now a total new newcomer.

But Glenda, 14, an incoming sophomore (the school year, unfortunately what the role demands from her. "I used to be extremely shy. When I was young, I did not talk in school for about three months. I was conscious all the time. When I was in grade 2, I attended a theater workshop. That part of 'Enid' me. Now, what I performs, I still get nervous all the time. My nervousness fades once I start to act and sing on stage."

Troy Bolton, the lead male character, is played by young singing phenom Jason Castro, 14. Troy is Enid Night's basketball champ who finds out about his secret passion for singing. He becomes torn between his new-found love and basketball championships. Will he give up one for the other?

Jason, who is also from those days with TV guestings, soap opera appearances, product endorsements and live performances, has this to say: "I will still pursue my high school and, of course, college. I am determined to give time for school, even if it means being dog-tired from rehearsals and taping." Jason manages by being home-schooled.

Marjorie Evasia, the girl-to-watch-out-for is

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Sugar-free Mamon (1 pc.)

Bitbit 3 P100

Caramel Popcorn 95 grams (5 pcs.)

Classic Polvoron (10 pcs.)

Bitbit 4 P120

Pan de Coco

Apple Raisin Bread

Peanut Butter Loaf

Goldilocks

Ang Sarap Magmahal Ng Pinoy.

VOICE students render a number.

Free concerts at LRT, MRT

THE ST. SCHOLASTICA'S COLLEGE School of Music presents "Encuentros: sing on here" at the MRT and LRT stations on June 20, 3 p.m.; LRT Listening Room/Active Station, on July 3, 3 p.m.; and at SM Megamall Aug. 11, 3 p.m.

Ms. May Placid, DMB, dean and chair of the music school's centennial committee, says the free concerts are part of the "Celebrating 100 Years of Music."

The first formal music school in the country, St. Scholastica's School of Music, was founded in 1907 with the arrival of Sr. Angelina Bastig.

"Encuentro" is a continuing outreach program of the school, wherein faculty members, alumnae and guests play classical and contemporary music from Mozart to Broadway and original Filipino music. Admission is free.

The concerts have the support of Federico Lautimoc and Mel Robles of the MRT and LRT administrations, respectively.

FACULTY and students play music together.

UP PROFESSOR Rosalinda Baraya, Karmina Fernandez, and violin couple Ricky and Lulu Imperial

ROMANIAN violin superstar Alexandru Tomescu with student Gabriella R. Fernandez, a sixth grader from St. Paul's College Pasig, during the master class at the Fernandez residence

When artists and craftsmen connect

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

BEFORE I SAW MY FIRST PIANO recital, the piano had been a somewhat mysterious, almost mythical instrument, a magic wand for making one-time fantasies feel more real. I heard my first piano recital 52 years ago, the seemingly lifeless and pretentious furniture became The Piano.

It became a symbol of something divine, a bridge between human reality and spiritual gratification, a symbol of what life could be in the hands of gifted artists.

When I became a concert organizer, The Piano became a business transaction between me and piano craftsmen, dealers and manufacturers. I had to make piano rentals and deal with contracts involving piano tuners and moving pianos around. Artworks to effect and arts to move to Cubao, Iskarda to Cagayan Valley and vice versa like in Pinoy and Cortinez to Jose Nono.

Piano owners, movers, dealers and manufacturers I've worked with include Lydia Panaco's Cedar Logan and Watercurry, Panaco's Sons Rights of Recital City. I've also worked with piano movers such as Noble Grisali, Danny Carrado, Benny Cosmoli, Tony Gay and famous tuner Ed Sacobal Gay's and many more.

I witnessed another kind of piano connection in the two-piece commemorative installation project "Mang Enno/Magkaisa: Grand Piano's Progeny," which opened at the UCP and closed in Galleria Duemila in Pinoy City.

The installation was by Nestor's Australia-based Filipino artist Alexis Brandoni, whose late father Jovino, or Mang Enno, was a piano maker and favorite who co-founded the now defunct Antonio and Company, maker of Wittenberg pianos. The installation project was a tribute to the artist's father.

But before diving into installation exhibit, Alexis talked about connections between piano craftsmen and keyboard artists and how one sets world-class without the other. He was probably referring his own private piano connection with his late father whom world revolved around piano parts and piano tunings.

Before the concert, we see the parts and machines used in making pianos along with mixed media works such as "Study for the Combined Twin Pianos," "Upright Pianist," "Clock piano I + One" and "Beethoven Goes to No. 2."

And so, before the concert, we saw the evolution of the pianos and the machines and gadgets that made up the musical life and times of Mang Enno, the piano maker.

For the exhibit, Alexis collaborated with real piano craftsmen such as Jaime Pamorillo, Julius Rabino Jr. and Tranquilino Trato Jr.

To end the exhibit, the keyboard artists took over.

Remedy Blanca Montanez played a magical Impromptu in A Flat Minor, Op. 90, by Schubert. Jourdan Bralver showed sizzling technique and style in Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodia No. 6 and 11.

His May Stela showcased Augusto Espino's superb arrangement of Filipino folksongs in the suite.

Harold Galang and Katherine Novarro decided the audience with American's "Festival of the Bohemian Dancers" and Giovanni's Dream Argentina. Greg Dalanga presented a much-loved treatment with two movements from Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata."

The vocal evolution of the concert was 13-year-old soprano, Mia Arlene Tungcangco from the Philippine High School for the Arts, with Franz Niklaus on the piano. She sang from Respighi's "La Sera Fedorad" qualified. Sailing with Santiago's "Ayo Kayo ng Bapalaan," the young music scholar showed she was a very promising talent.

As finale, pianists Ingrid Isle Sarmiento with Jonathan Lee rendered a peerless Mozartinized Piano Concerto No. 2, which triggered a rousing standing ovation.

Said Brandoni: "Without the piano craftsmen, there would be no instruments. And without the keyboard artists, the piano can't sing. In this context, I hope you see the connection."

Violin master class

I witnessed another kind of connection in the master class conducted by Romanian violinist Alexandru Tomescu before he left for Romania.

From performer, he became a master in another setting, and showed how a seasoned performer could share experience with promising young players.

The setting was the Pasig City residence of Marcelo Fernandez and his wife, whose sixth-grade daughter Gabriella started early on violin along with Juliana and Dagmar Imperial and Nicole Jonathan.

In the master class setting, the participants who ran the normal of the Romanian violinist looked up to the teacher as a model. Tomescu said he should not be treated as a teacher but as a co-player who won just-shining his long years of experience as concert artist.

But as I looked at the parents (the Fernandezes and the Imperials), I realized they were also the important connection which linked their children to the performing arts.

When big artists share generously with young artists and the parents encourage children to interact with great artists, the arts, one realizes, have a big chance of surviving in this pop-music dominated society.

Corrections

In my previous article on the Russian artists, I wrote that Lisa Marcia Elizalde also danced The Swan immortalized by the great Anna Pavlokova. Susan Macia is called to say that The Swan had never been part of her daughter's repertoire. I stand corrected.

Let me also clarify that pianist Oliver Sabanga gained the Juilliard audition after his Lyon University schooling (where he graduated summa cum laude) and not before his entrance to the university.

DIRECTOR Audie Damora with the cast

Back-to-'High School Musical'

Francisco p.4

played by alternate athena Tibi, 18, as insensitive drama queen Ms. Darbus, a singer-actress and theater arts and theatre designer in the University of Asia and the Pacific. Schuppel is arrogant about her performing skills. Thus, she would insist on things to happen her way. She only bonds with her twin brother, Ryan.

Athena, in real life, enjoys the company of her friends in school. "I love me study groups. I am grateful for my friends for supporting me. In fact, I have difficulty dealing with math subjects, but with their help I am able to manage."

Brainiac

Carl Andre Caron, a beginner in the show, is played by Ian Magbanua, 16, star like Carl, Ian is considered a bright boy, having bagged the President Macapagal-Arroyo Outstanding Excellence in Technology and Entrepreneurship Award in high school. He is on his way to Ateneo class this school year at University of Sto. Tomas, as he prepares to take up Medicine in the future.

Reminisce or not, Ian believes one can learn not only in books. "In school, you also learn things by mingling with other people. School prepares you for life by making you more aware of yourself and others."

Chad Danforth, Troy's best friend and schoolmate in the team basketball, is played by Sam Ching, 15. He opposed Troy's musical inclination at the start. He believed good basketball players were to be found on the court, not in the theater. But seeing his best friend's struggle made him realize he could be wrong.

SAM Concepcion (Troy Bolton) and the cast

This kind of epiphany is not new to him. "There was this one time that I was going through a little bit of trouble. My English teacher was very troublesome and would always push deadlines for me. I remember that she always said, 'I know you are gonna make a difference in the world and it is a shame that you have a failure during your academic year.' So I pushed up my grades till the end because of her."

Stages and Trumpet Playboy's production of Disney's "High School Musical On Stage" runs at Meralco Theater on weekends of June 23-July 15. For tickets, call Ticketworld at 891-9999 or Stages at 838-1111 local 200 or 225.

UP Baguio holds centennial lecture series

THE UP CENTENNIAL LECTURE SERIES OF the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) kicks off on June 20, with cultural critic and historian Ruel Mojares delivering a lecture on the importance of Isabelo de los Reyes in Philippine intellectual life.

His lecture's, "Isabelo's Archive: The Importance of Isabelo de los Reyes in Philippine History," stems from his most recent book, "Brains of the Nation," published by the Ateneo University Press in 2006. Mojares will discuss how De los Reyes' body of works provoke paradigmatic re-terms of the agenda, content, language and form of Filipino scholarship.

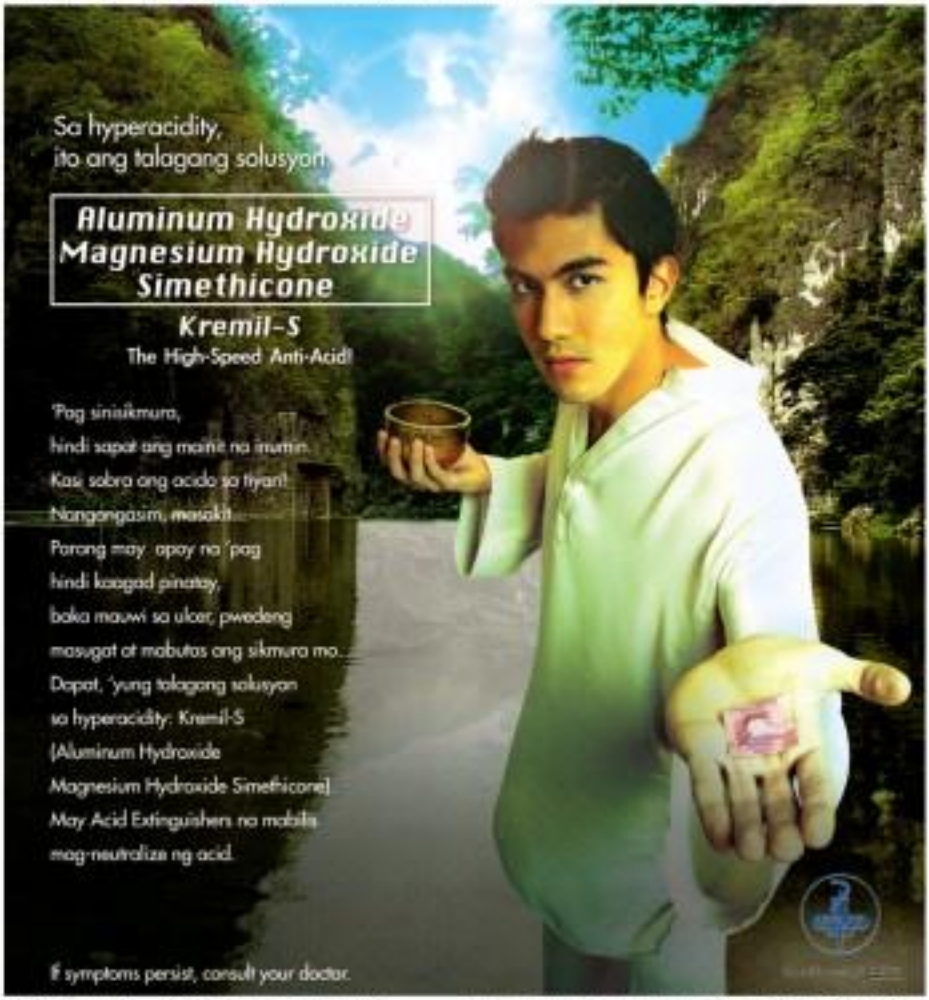
Born in Vigan, De los Reyes is known as Philippine history as one of the major People gazettes and founder of the first workers' union in the Philippines. He also played a major role in the establishment of the Philippine Independent Church.

Mojares is professor emeritus at University of San Carlos in Cebu. He is the author of numerous books and articles on Philippine culture and society. His book "The Rise of the Pilipino Novel" is considered by many as one of the most important contributions to Philippine literary scholarship.

Lecture starts 2:30 p.m. at Bulwagang Juan Luna. It is open to the public.

Book sale

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY Press will hold its annual book sale until June 29, 8 a.m.-12 noon and 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and until 3 p.m. on Friday, at the Grace Goodhay in the former Hall of the Loyola Heights campus. All its titles will be sold at least 50-50 percent. Call 4265984, e-mail unipress@admu.net.ph, visit www.ateneopress.org. Cookies and coffee to be served.



Luis Manzano talks about life, burping, and hyperacidity.

Ok, do you ever get hyperacidity?
Oh, a lot. Because I've sold kind of hyperacidic when I'm stressed at work, when is like all the time. I love

Lastly?
(overlapped) Oh, you never anything? I'm good.

Ok. Do you drink coffee or tea?
I drink coffee AND tea.

Aha, did you know you can get hyperacidity if you drink too much coffee or tea?
No thanks also! Sometimes I say sometimes like, I drink coffee or tea. Then instead na gumaling, parang lalo siyang lumalala. Siguro nasobrahan lang ang caffe, pero 'yung dark mentum sa 'di.

Wow, you know quite a deal about hyperacidity!
Hindi naman. I learned some things about it. Like hindi siguro ang sumasakit ang bandit kapag nasobrahan ng caffeine. Or nagagapos ng stressed sa trabaho. Or sumasakit ng ulo. Or kung ang sakit. Or sumasakit ng mainit. Lahat 'yan hindi talaga sintomas na hyperacidity.

Ano ang talagang sintomas sa hyperacidity?
Kasi, sumasakit kasi! Extinguishers! Kremil Kremil-ang acid pacang ano na kapag hindi mo sinusang pinatay, kaka-makatao ang siyan mo, sa akin. Diabasan!

Hindi para dapat minamadali ang pamimitsura?
Talaga. Kasi mo sinasabing wala lang ang buon 'yan, mkay. Pwedeng sumakit magang ulcer. Madaya na 'yon! Kaya dapat at the first sign of hyperacidity, take Kremil na kaagad.

Do you actually use it?
I do because it's really effective for me.

Since when?
Actually, dinala ko lang talaga before because I thought this other ointments. It will get to work or heal by itself and I didn't need to take medicine for it. But when I was taking for the Unkal team, they explained to me that if you don't neutralize the excess acid, it will burn the lining of your stomach and lead to ulcer. Sumipsip nakakal ako. Tatanong kana there were lots of products during the seminar so I started taking Kremil and it really helps!

Endorser ka ba ng Kremil?
Obviously not! :)
Seriously, I'm proud of it. Kasi nakapaling talong talaga siya. That's why I always have tablets of Kremil in my pocket. Hindi mo alam kung kailan mga kung mararanas. Ako pa naman sa ordering kasi sometimes I skip meals. Dose mamaya ang nakakakain ko.

So what's keeping you busy these days?
Movies. Taping three days a week which I actually like because in the morning, I go to the gym regularly, maybe two or three times a week. I don't go out or gimik anymore kasi wala na talagang time eh. Anyway, my friends just come over and drink.

Do you smoke?
Nope. Never.

Why?
I just don't like it.

Pa-good boy effect?
No, seriously. I never tried smoking and never will.

That's great. Kasi alam mo ba nakaka-hyperacidity din ang smoking?
Yun nga. Besides it doesn't smell good.

Any messages to your fans?
Yes, yes. Thank you thank you! thank you for all your support and I love you all. And also I would like to thank Kremil for giving me as their endorser kasi I really believe in it and I use it.

"I would never endorse anything I don't believe in."
I'm recommending it also to my fans. Kremil's the high-speed anti-acid!

A playwright by imperative

A new book collects the award-winning dramatic works of Nick Pichay. It will be launched June 29

By Ichabod Diwalwalijk
Cred Staffer

EDITED collaborator

MUS INDAYS HOAR IN Mendaloroup is clustering from the outside, with a vanilla of yellow bulbs inching over colorful pins that spots to a garage where a pocket garden lies on one side and a shiny red car is parked there by coat-valet.

Inside, the audience warmly opens up with homely pictures, vintage sarva furniture from their old house in Quiapo, a silver framed mirror that covers almost half a wall, and an antique wood sculpture that has been variously identified to St. Sebastian, St. Peter or some other saint wearing a bishop's garb.

On June 29, the University of the Philippines Press will launch an anthology of three of his award-winning works for theater (the first two) and television (the last one): "Psychedelia sapos depos," "Singalot Hearing Mehfel" Filac Dear Pasahiro), and "Balweng Tinum Kmagpuso sa Gramol Road" (Bob Lohr Found along the Central Road).

Eleven other books—ranging from the memoirs to the humanities—will also be presented to the public on that day.

Creative procreation

When I arrive, Pichay is working on to start pleading.

"Hey," I tease, "I thought you were a playwright?"

"For your information," he plays along, "I'm a learner by intervention and a playwright by imperative."

Pichay works on the third floor, a spacious area ("A garret," he corrects, "had it only opened when you first arrive") divided by a wall to make two rooms.

There's a modest guest room on one side and a study room on the other with books overflowing from the book cases, some were lying on the rug.

His laptop is open, beside it is a lap standing Bogus Isalel, with an even bigger shot, thrilles stupid.

"For creative procrastination," he explains.

There are books lying in every location like giant nuts on their way to a food convention. He must have been reading on Zia Feliz.

"This is from Ursula," he says. "I have attention-deficit disorder. One second I am working on a play, and the next thing I know, I'm reading Camus."

He is always joking. He doesn't read Camus.

Very impudent

Had I believe him when he says he is writing. His plays have been performed by the major theater companies and shown in Manila, Baccaro, Hong Kong and Hawaii. He also has a reputation for "throwing" during rehearsals.

At these times, he can be very unpatient. In his younger years, he even took over a production rehearsal from an irate director.

"The director didn't understand the text. He came to me and asked for help. But I've never done it since, and I've remained friends with that director despite the shouting match," he says.

In spite of this reputation, he morphs because of it, character clients were urged him in high esteem, especially as a collaborator in the staging of his works.

He insists that I mention names of the directors he has worked with as a playwright ("It's no particular order," he added: Tony Rinkow, dance

Anna, Paul Morales, Vincent de Jesus, Mayibel Lapuz-Ito, Melchor Luis, Rody Vera, Ananas Jimlico.

In his introduction to the book, National Artist for Literature Bien Lumbera commends the public-minded artist for the UP press choose the three plays to anthologize: "The plays in the collection may be viewed as containing an evolution in Philippine theater and a contrapt point to assess the future direction of playwriting. (In Inggo dahong ito "mapagsusukatan" ng pag-ahon kung saan na ang tanghoy at saan na ng Filipino at saan-saan upang ating sinabing mahahalaga.")

Pichay's books are great to have to give away for birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries or any other happy occasion. It is so easy to empathize with the characters as he works so they are undeniably funny.

His plots, although familiar, are often unconventional, evolved and. And his dialogue often plays with rhythm and meaning, either in of actors or well as funny-sound-dead others in the line.

Pichay will autograph his book and pose with fans (if there are any) for photo-ops at the Rahan Kalitone launching, June 29, 6 p.m. Cocktails will be served.

Focus on Alexander McCall Smith

ALEXANDER McCall Smith

A EDITED/EDITED UNIVERSITY professor and successful writer, Alexander McCall Smith a Bessie Head, author of the Month for June.

Smith has written more than 40 books ranging from reference works to children's titles. He became immensely popular with his detective stories. "The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency," which follows the quirky adventures of Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's finest and only female detective.

Along with the fabulous plots, the books also provide observations on the culture and traditions of Botswana and Africa. The series, is reportedly being optioned for film.

His other book series are "Professor Dr. von Igelfeld" (the "entertainment Series" (2003), "The Sunday Philosophy Club" (2004-2007), and "The 44 Scotland Street Series" (2005-2007).

He has been bestowed the Writer's Author of the Year, Crime Writers' Association Dagger in the Library Award and British Book Awards Author of the Year.

In 2007, the veteran educator and writer was awarded a CBE for his services to literature.

Smith was born in Zimbabwe, where he spent more than 20 years before moving to Scotland to study law. He is emeritus professor of medical law at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and is an expert on medical law and bioethics. He left in 2005 to fully pursue his writing career.

His books are available at Bestsellers (Quezon Ave. with branches at Greenhills 4 est. 7774422 to 29), SM Megamall (6352896 to 99), Alabang Town Center (8050662 to 63), Glorietta 3 (7527071), Shangri-la (6340620 to 29), Robinson's Place Manila (5215334, 5204446), SM Mall of Asia (8566244), Power Supermall (6340211), and Trinoma (9481881/82).

Writers' workshop offers fellowships

THE ATENEO INSTITUTE OF Literary Arts and Practices (AILAP) is accepting applications for Ilin Tin '70 Ateneo National Writers Workshop to be held on Oct. 22-27.

Each applicant should submit a portfolio of any of the following works: five poems, three short stories, or their one-act plays, or whichever Filipino or English, with a 100-page limit, giving the author's pseudonym and a table of contents.

The portfolio must also be accompanied by a short resume, containing a list of the documents saved in Word Portal.

All submissions should include a sealed envelope containing the author's name, address, contact numbers and a one-page resume including a literary curriculum vitae not to exceed 200 words.

Twelve fellows will be chosen from all over the country. Food and lodging accommodations will be provided.

Submit address entries to Rhoda A. Vilogco, acting director, AILAP c/o Edgar Dayrit's room, Rosario de la Costa Hall, Loyola Schools, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

Deadline of submission is on Aug. 3. Call 4264001 local 5320-21 or e-mail ateneo@ateneo.edu.

LIFESTYLE

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New children's book and suite of paintings launched today

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK, "Ang Batang Maraming Bawal," written by Fernando Gonzales, winner of the second annual Reuben Forbes Children's Storywriting Competition, will be launched today at 6 p.m. at the Art Space of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

The bilingual book has an English translation by poet Rebecca Añonuevo. It is edited by co-chic teacher Oscar Campomanes.

The launch will coincide with the unveiling of artist Rodel Tapaya's collection of paintings that serve as illustrations for the book.

The book is jointly published by Carosa, which promotes used stories young writers, and the UST Publishing House.

E-mail info@carosa.ph or visit www.carosa.ph

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WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Tribute to Inday Cadapan

"THE FILIPINA ACCORDING TO INDAY," AN ART EXHIBITION IN MEMORY OF INDAY CADAPAN, OPENS WITH cocktails on June 20, 7 p.m., at 1/16 Gallery 1/2, Iloilo Business Park, Diversion Road, Mandurriao, Iloilo City, Iloilo. Exhibit runs until June 30. Call 033-320-2132 for details.

"LOLLIPOP"

"FLY High"

Images of isolation and bliss

By Constantino C. Tejero

A FEW DETAILS DISAPpearing from the art scene for some years, Vincent Padilla has returned his second solo show in half a year, following his exhibit of a life of emigration at the cubicle in February.

This time he is exploring life in isolation in "Oubliette," power on all cameras, in Crucible Gallery at the Arts walk, L/4, Bldg. A, 3M Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Taking the narrow and isolation chamber as metaphor, he once again turns an idea upside down, as he did with the coloring and transforming school's dark and forbidding into something lighthearted and pastel-colored. Oubliette is a secret dungeon accessible only from a hatch in the ceiling, but here the artist visualizes it as a four-corner tower reduced into a box-like cell which provides a figure confined against the sky.

Says Padilla: "To exit an oubliette was nearly impossible without outside help. The word comes from the French word oublier, 'to forget,' as it was used for those prisoners who were to be left to forget. The artists focuses on individual oubliettes, as the individual as oubliettes—an isolation borne of choice, prejudice and acceptance."

To him, the box represents "our limitations to move and to think," thus through the years it has played a vital role in his art.

He explains: "Bound by our own respective boxes...our love in a box (boxes), ride in a box (car), and spectator time watching the idiot box (television). Our life is surrounded by boxes. The outdoors stands for both a pedestal and a chamber of humiliation and isolation."

Instead of feeling disturbed by the imagery, however, the viewer feels the innocent bliss of these people, limited in primary and secondary colors in pastel tone with some gray and gold, while they act out their roles in life as revealed by the paintings' titles: "Sikhara" (yellow in yellow, yellow-green, white and pink), "Jagghir," "Jaqara" (ballerina in pink and white), "Jamaat" (trumpet player), "Mamaaraa" (masked lover in blue, pink and white), "Jhora King" (jacket-clad fiddler in white and violet).

Deadly sex are seeing things here through rose-tinted glasses, or the artist is not expanding the metaphor. Jaheela Padilla "learned of pain, fear, loneliness and sorrow, I learned happiness and positive images."

Indeed, some may be upset that instead of condemning the cruel issue of torture and isolation, the artist could be gleaning over the metaphor, thus portraying complacency. This is like saying Secret Beatifico and Nito enforced symbolize us.

But then, who could erase that flutter like figure of a golden female nude with white cherub wings in "Fly High"? Or the soap bubble cleaner in multi-green shoes, striped indigo tights, fuchsia shirt and dream cap in "Bath"? Or the businessman in coat and tie and pirate's cap holding up a stripped candy in "Lollipop"?

But all these figures are totally isolated, though, in some pieces, two boxes appear in neighboring towers. In "Pangarap," they're flying while kites from their respective perch. In "Showtime," they're playing with paper airplanes, sending their message to the world.

Says Padilla: "I believe that real happiness comes from within, and isolation gave me a chance to find it."

That is clearly illustrated by "Only Who Has," an image of a boy sitting on his box with hands clasped and their turned up to a white hole in a darkening sky. The heavenly appear to have drawn on the individual, separating him—but instead of claustrophobia, here is opportunity.

"ONLY Way Out"

Visual Arts

Pacquing, Llagune at Magnet

Bernardo Pacquing chooses his new works in "Innerscape," at the Magnet Gallery (Nexus Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City), until June 30. The paintings are like a child's wanton scribblings on the walls of a mid-20th-century dwelling with the original coat of paint applied intermittently by parents, relatives of sisters and brothers. His subjects seem to echo familiar imagery to get at memories of childhood and office and apartments. Call 811-1888, e-mail magnet@gmail.com or visit www.magnet.com.ph.

BY BERNARDO Pacquing

Meanwhile, Bicol-based artist Mark Llagune is hosting his first one man show in Manila, "An Interpretation," until June 30, at Magnet Gallery (892-1811 Locks; 888-0888 extension 1301). The show features mixed media works that border between neo abstract and realism. Llagune is the exceptional balancer between the retrospective and the idiosyncratic. Llagune graduated at Aquinas University in Legazpi and took up Fine Arts at UST. He teaches at Bicol University. Call 813-3888.

"IDIOSYNCRATIC," by Mark Llagune

"WINDOW at Tranquility Somerset"

Green works at DLSU

De La Salle University-Manila's "Re-Museum is building" Icons and Iconoclasts of Life," an exhibition of papers and works as examples of best practices, until July 15, at the DLSU Collection of Art & Antiques Gallery (2/F 2303 Mabini Building, East Gate, Taft Ave., Manila). By light and shadow, Fernando transforms trash and scenes into something creative.

Fontanilla at 555

Photographer Thady Fontanilla presents his photo collection until July 6, at the 555 Collection of Art & Antiques Gallery (2/F 555 Mabini Building, East Ave., Diliman, Quezon City). By light and shadow, Fontanilla transforms trash and scenes into something creative.

Lecture on bamboo at Met

Rose Anne Tan, an architect who has done extensive research on the vast resources of bamboo, will deliver "Kawayan Ashp - The Rise of Local Materials in Contemporary Filipino Designs," June 23, 2-5 p.m., at Metropolitan Museum of Manila. The lecture is in connection with "Living Bliss Bamboo Living," featuring works by Kawayan," an exhibition on bamboo as represented in the visual and industrial arts. The exhibition runs until July 8 at the Met's 3rd Gallery. Call 527-1850 or 526-1566.

Olivares-Arevalo at Ayala

Gisela Olivares-Arevalo, daughter of the late Gerardo Arevalo, will mount her first multi-exhibit, "Waters, Windows, Wakening," on June 19-July 2 at the Artist Space, Ayala Museum. The show features 20 digital photographs that depict healing and positive outlook. Gerardo Arevalo focuses by images of water and windows, culminating in the atonement of one's God-given greatness (read more: a Filipino using for "show"). Call 757-7117 to 21 ext. 31.

Caballero at Ricco-Renza

Ricco-Renza Gallery, 2108 Dominga St., Bel-Air II, Makati) will present "Madrid Mambo" by Cesar Caballero on June 19-July 29. Caballero has always demonstrated a restless and innovative mental momentum and from an early age thrived to get in contact with other artists. He worked as in Ibiza, Spain, where he met painters with whom he explored different techniques and styles, such as the overlapping of textured resins, the mixture of media, photography and monotypes. Call 8852-8519/811 or 886-7545.

Digital photo workshop

The Ateneo Perspective of the Filipinas Heritage Library is offering another five-weeknight workshop on Digital 101. Photography and the Computer, June 18, 21 and 28 at 6-9 p.m. Call 892-1401, e-mail cma-oblig@admissions.ateneo.edu or visit www.filipinasheritage.com.ph.

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Lunda artists at Heart Center

The Lantung Dangdog Arter Group (en. 5 artists, Fredrick Jan Garcia, Rodelio Cruz, Eric Fermoso, Jon Sarong, Vince Parsero, Gary Esquivia, and Rizon de la Cruz, in photos of the opening cocktails and Lunda president Dr. Nora Chantio Lantaco (at her left) at Heart Center, Quezon City. Photo by Rolando B. Inabella Pasquino and Fernandez. The exhibit runs until June 29. Call 960-3511 or 0917-5232313.

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'Litanya' in Sts. Cruz, Lapuz

Beneath Art Space (2/F2 1st Ave., Villa Gonzaga Subd., Sta. Cruz, Laguna) will hold "Litanya," (un-veiling of four solo shows): Gilbert Gan Hayt's "Ama ng Laging Pagtaka," Mark Justiniani's "SAGUIMBANGAN," Anthony Palomo's "Walay Ini Dunia," Justiniani and Gilbert Gomez's "Sanaka'y Ingat Ungasan." The various exhibits attempt to create a cohesive artistic dialogue in visual perception based on events, environment, history and personal references. The show runs June 23-July 13. Call 0949-808-8511 or 809-5-777-20008.

"UNTITLED," by Emmanuel Garibay

SyCip at Crucible

Alan SyCip presents his latest exhibit "Arc: Zen," on June 19-July 1 at the Crucible Gallery, 6/F Bldg. A, 3M Megamall, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit features SyCip's many works of impressionist brush paintings based on the Zen color scheme of red, black and white. Call 633-4061.

"Hibiki," by Alan SyCip

'Dine a Dozen' at Lopez

The Lopez Memorial Museum (Benpres Building, Exchange Road cor Meralco Ave., Pasig) presents "Dine a Dozen," an exhibition attempts to map the economy of national objects across social strata and across historical periods. Featured are the works of 19th-century masters Juan Luna and Fernando Amorsolo and contemporary artists Ian Lim-Isaac, Alwin Reamillo and Jacinto Gaa. Call 637-2157 to e-mail museum@lopezmuseum.org or visit www.lopezmuseum.org. The exhibit runs until July 15. Call 634-3976 or 634-3977.

Olivares-Arevalo at Ayala

Gisela Olivares-Arevalo, daughter of the late Gerardo Arevalo, will mount her first multi-exhibit, "Waters, Windows, Wakening," on June 19-July 2 at the Artist Space, Ayala Museum. The show features 20 digital photographs that depict healing and positive outlook. Gerardo Arevalo focuses by images of water and windows, culminating in the atonement of one's God-given greatness (read more: a Filipino using for "show"). Call 757-7117 to 21 ext. 31

Philippine art masters in children's books

By Mimi Sia, Ramona Cruz
Contributor

RECENT SOFT-COVER RELEASES from the Ayala Foundation highlight the life and art of three masters of Philippine art: Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel. Their authors and illustrators are outstanding practitioners of children's literature today.

Luna's temper and passion—dark and brooding...are captured on the cover of "Juan Luna: Patriot and Painter," written by Carla C. Pacis and illustrated by Isabel "Pepper" Roxas.

Pacis relates her story to explain Luna's shrewd, opulent in style (best Art Deco) figures to the dictated economic, from portraits and self-portraits to society subjects.

The book explains Luna's most famous painting, "Spoliarium," about the chamber beneath the Roman arena where the bodies of gladiators were brought. It was Luna's most ambitious painting yet, "Pacis notes, "Because it was very large, he painted it outside his small apartment and on the street where Roman policemen kept their stables. The noise and the smell of horse manure and sweat did not bother Juan as he painted this gruesome painting."

One is surprised by Luna's patriotism, particularly his friendship with Rizal, for whom "Noli Me Tangere" he did watercolor illustrations, which he signed as "J.L." for "Juan Rizzals," "Juan Luna in Spanish always sounds."

Luna's story is rich enough even without the disappointing omission of the infamous shooting of his wife Paz in Paris. One wonders why over a hundred years later his life has to be restricted.

The book has distracting footnotes that invite readers to do art projects in the course of the narration.

How can one not help but smile at the witty title of Amorsolo's biography—"The Boy Who Lost a Father and Found the Sun: The Life of Master Painter Fernando Amorsolo"? This is not a mere dense play of words, for when his father died when he was 11, Amorsolo stopped drawing. He felt there was no one to imitate he could close his work. "Who would smile at him? Who would tell him kind words? Who would hold his small brown hands and encourage him his drawings were good?"

According to the book written by Rene Villanueva and illustrated by Neil Doroche Bandalero, the young boy rekindled his interest in drawing when his family stayed with Tatang de la Rosa, his mother's cousin.

"He felt his father's presence as the sun that shone brightly over him. His father's love was the bright sun that burned the lush caladium trees or the light that filtered through clumps of bamboo."

The golden tropical sunshine that so suffused Amorsolo in a recurring motif in Villanueva's biography. There are constant references to the influence of the "benign presence of the sun" in Amorsolo's art which were "bathed in sunlight" or had "sun-drenched scenes."

Villanueva turns lyrical as he describes the pastoral scenes which earned for Amorsolo the epithet, "superstar of the American period."

"Sometimes the sun metamorphosed itself as the shimmering mantech reflected on the surface of the river or the glowing brilliance that flooded wind-swept rice fields," Villanueva writes. "Sometimes it shone against the backs of ordinary men and women at work or had died in contemplation."

The story ends of vintage photos of the artist, his love de Manila awellaire, his early illustrations for children in Camilo Osias' "The Philippine Reader" series, his paintings in full color, and Fernando Zobel's collage art with labels as the major material in one outfitting.

In "Fernando Zobel: The Man Who Painted Skies," written by Maria Elena Paterno and illustrated by Marian Wada, the artist's approach to the story of Zobel takes the form of a school report by a young student, Maria. It

The lives of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel find eager readers among young Filipinos

begins with an exchange of letters between the teacher and Maria, who's anxious about his assigned subject. Zobel blurs the artist gained renown for his abstraction, he is described as "the man who painted skies."

The well-selected quotes from Zobel's letters explain much about the man and the artist, someone who had to initially struggle with the double life of being a businessman and an artist. "I don't paint what I see, I paint what I remember seeing." But can't a camera capture all that? His paintings, Zobel wrote, "do reveal the important gesture, movement, feeling or the quality of light."

The last page carries a delectable photo of Zobel's gallery Parida Luz. It captures the artist from behind, walking on what appears to be wooden planks of a bridge. It is on the page whose number is the same as his age when he died in 1984—59.

Recommended companion titles to these biographies are the 2004 "Stories in Art" series, featuring four stories based on a painting each by Luna and Amorsolo, and two paintings by Zobel. The Ayala Museum's permanent collection includes significant works by the three artists.

The little known details in each biography are memorable—Luna as the first Filipino to become famous abroad, Amorsolo having been happy as a young person who drew all day Zobel having kept his studio so organized that his brushes and paints were always on the same place all the time.

Apart from serving as an irresistible invitation to visit the Ayala Museum to view the original paintings, the well-produced books may lead young readers to be curious and inquisitive about art, culture and history. Truly, a successful book must lead young readers to raise questions and not merely provide their with answers.

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People. Email her at mimi@gmail.com.

'Harry Potter' book 7 discount

THE HIGHLY AN-ticipated last in the millionsec of the phenomenal "Harry Potter" book series is coming to July. Be one of the first to get "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." Reserve your copy at Power Books Specialty Stores now and get a 15-percent discount on the original price of the book. Just visit the customer service booth of any Power Books branch and fill out a reservation slip and give a 25,000 down payment.

Aside from the 15-percent discount, Powercard holders get a 150-peso coupon and those card Plus holders get a 25.00 gift certificate.

Promo runs until July 14.

Book on 'burgis' lifestyle

SOLIFUERS PUBLISHING, INC. has recently released "OMG-Gosh! The Incredible Lightness of Being Bergis!" by April Tinsel Sig.

The book is a collection of clever, funny essays written in blog style by a young writer who values a light-hearted view of serious aspects of our bergis existence—from insulting to our addiction to electronic gadgets and fast food.

The special-assigned humor is forged from the wisdom the author has gained from her life journey class far. From dresses of dreams of rappelchood: "...my class mind dream of becoming a puppe... was all that mattered... my life ambitions were to earn a lot of money, live in a condo, drink vodka and drive a BMW... Of course now I realize that a profession, some sort of job, is actually necessary to earn money to buy things."

And from the acompanyate of her bit as a poorly paid academic: "The other day... bit the classroom for three hours, then by 10 in the morning was built up some morning tense on mine and a daughter. Worse a little, read a little—then took a nap, yet another sure of life's mistake... Gosh! I thought: sometimes it just doesn't get any better than this."

The author teaches at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, where she is completing her Ph.D in Creative Writing. She also wrote "Stressed in the City: Snippets of the Lighter Side of the Urban Jungle," published by Milflores.

The humorous covers designed and highly stylized illustrations of "OhMyGosh!" are by Bernie Bustos of clarendelbus.com and the book design is by Erlando B. Cleofas.

The book is available in Bookstead Book Stores, Power Books, Books for Less and other major book outlets at P195 per copy.

Call 7234401 or e-mail milflores@globelines.net.

Last-minute weekend getaways

SUMMER MAY BE OVER, BUT there's still time to get away on weekends to secret places like Manila Jollyfish Lake and Corregidor's Skin Peninsula. Just two places on the June Metro mag's list of "fabulous and spontaneous weekend escapes."

Judy Ann Santos glows on the cover, and talks about life, love and keeping grounded.

Featuring gay couples who have been together for years share some intimate thoughts: couples could use, which chose women to talk about ex-boyfriends who screwed you.

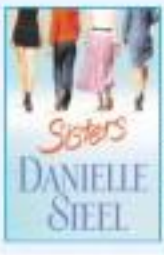
Stylish TV personality Sophia Charlie Puey shows us what's in her closet.

Check out the chic new shapes for wide-leg trousers, and get some beauty tips for still looking good the morning after a wild party.

Metro is available nationwide.

Call 8106161 or visit www.metromix.com.

Book club focuses on Danielle Steel



LONG BEFORE CHICK LIT BECAME THE rage in women's fiction, and before Helen Fielding and Lauren Weisberger became household names, international author Danielle Steel captivated readers the world over with dramatic, richly woven novels full of strong female characters and poignant settings.

With sales in 61 best-sellers and millions of copies in print, Steel continues her record run with two of her latest novels, "Coming Out" and "Sisters," featured this June in PowerBooks' Power Book Club discussion.

A coming out ball in New York throws a family into chaos in "Coming Out." Olympia Crawford Rubinstein has a thriving legal career and a private perfect family and life until an overdose for her twin daughters to attend the most exclusive debutante ball sparks a political debate in the household.

For Olympia's husband whose parents survived the Holocaust, holding and much more attending such social gathering is repugnant.

Olympia's twin daughters have contrasting reactions to the invitation. Then there is her stubborn ex-husband who sees the occasion as a perfect time to ignite a family feud. Troubled but unfazed, Olympia is determined to keep her family glued together no matter what.

"Sisters" is the compelling story of four sisters busily pursuing their own successes until a stunning tragedy reunites them in chaos, one by one as they struggle to mix the conditions of how only sisters can provide to wounded family members. But as the four women settle in, there is a lingering question as to how they are destined to confront the aftershocks of their respective lives. Will blame over family triumph in the end?

"Coming Out" will be discussed on June 26, 6:30 p.m. at PowerBooks Greenbelt (tel. 7578420 to 25), and "Sisters" on June 27, 6:30 p.m. at PowerBooks SM Megamall (6356896 to 98).

"NUNA ... Anew," by Jay Ticar

"MORNING Proverb," by Amy Aragon

"SMOOTHING Sunday at Pampering My Wall," by Ticar

"ENQUIRE," by Aragon

"TANDEMKATAHE," by Ticar

Aragon and Ticar at Hiraya

ARI ARAGON AND JAY TICAR WILL HOLD THEIR HOME-coming exhibit, "Carabasse Kasiusi, Ingat Ka" (which means "Be your best" in Japanese and "Take care" in Hiligaynon) at Hiraya Gallery (7201-2854 ext., Ayala, Tuesday, June 12–July 17.

The couple spent three years in Japan where Ticar finished his master's in Fine Arts at Tama Art University on a Japanese government scholarship. The show revolves around their experiences in Setagaya Tokyo.

Call 525.1333, e-mail hiraya@info.com.ph or visit www.hiraya.com.

"MY Goods ... My Precious," by Aragon

"STARLIGHT Performance," by Jonas Rosete

Art Trek in Singapore features 'Kababaihan'

ARTISTS SUSCRIT DE PIO, Jerry Morada, Aileen Lacuya and Jovan Beato are featured in the Philippine Independence Month celebration at Galerie Joaquin Singapore.

The show "Kababaihan (Women)," which runs till June 28, features 14 works and is part of the month-long Art Trek, a project spearheaded by the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore and participated in by eight Singapore galleries.

Of the galleries, Galeri Joaquin Singapore Pte Ltd (164 Bagnet Road, 1 Grocaders Road, Singapore; www.galeriejoaquin.com) is the first to Singapore to exclusively feature artworks from the Philippines.

Mike Singco, gallery director, said: "We are inspired to showcase a collection [where] where our aficionados can find museum quality artworks by Filipino artists."

Included in the show are works by guest artists Lydia Delmoro and Fabiano Rojas-Gil.

Tellano is a favorite in Sotheby's Raoul's shows painting every, "Red, White, Black," in the "the last Sotheby's auction earned a finest price of $12,000 (P566,000), or three times its original estimate.

De Pio's works drew his keen

By Aileen Lacuya

interest in classical women since some while Morada's works are technically competent realistic renditions in a surreal setting or composition.

Although both depict women in traditional Filipiniana garb, Lacuya and Beato treat the like different styles to their subjects. Lacuya opts for dramatic and elegant portraits that reveal the artist's deft hand in playing with light and shadow.

Beato's palette is more festive and colorful, projecting the quirky, ironic and playful side of women.

Other shows at Art Trek include a one-man show by Mona Sudharson in ARTspace; "Contemporary Print Philippines" in Minimetrics Arts Gallery; "Faces of Filipino Contemporary Art" in Art Space; "Colours and Impressions" in Utopia Gallery; "Color the Sky Blue" in Hotels Art; "Art Budget" in SIKU Gallery; "Fil. Latin Art @ Art Forum" in Joaquin.

"CELLIST at Rest," by Vincent de Pio

By Jerry Morada

By Lacuya

"STRING Duet," by Beato

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

send feedback: inquirer.net/home/page/feedback to CITY (Globe) and CEO (Smart); e-mail to edit.c_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

INSIDE

- 3 shows that rocked the metro Reviews/E6
- Reader scolds Piolo, Regine Feedback/E3

Ambassador of film

Scriptwriter-director Joey Reyes represents RP in 'On the Lot' campaign

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AS PART OF ITS PROmotional campaign for the new Steven Spielberg-Mark Burnett reality show "On the Lot," Star World has chosen five filmmakers from the Southeast Asian region as ambassadors of film.

Representing the Philippines is scriptwriter-director Joey Reyes. "Hindi Joey" in show biz circles.

Hindi Joey told Inquirer Entertainment: "I was chosen because endurance reality show that tackles a subject close to my heart: filmmaking. I'm still asking myself, 'Why me?'"

According to Ariel Ilido, head marketing manager of Star World, Hindi Joey met all of the international network criteria. "Star World was looking for an established filmmaker with an impressive body of work. Hindi Joey is critically acclaimed and commercially successful as writer-producer-director."

DINER Joey, during the Star World interview: "We should have a similar show."

Ilido recalled sending copies of two of Hindi Joey's films—"Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" and "Kung Ako na Lang Sana"—to the network's Hong Kong office.

Reyes made light of his selection, that "Maybe they chose me because I have the best complexion (among 10 prime filmmakers)!"

Ilido explained that the campaign aims to "reinforce the Asian filmmaking experience with that of Hollywood," she related that, apart from Hindi Joey filmmakers from four other ASIA countries will be aired starting Wednesday throughout the region on Star Movies and other Star channels.

The ambassadors' profiles, photos

AMBASSADOR (C)

THE SWEETER KISS
Ellen DeGeneres kisses her new 14th Annual Daytime Emmy trophies for Outstanding Talk Show and Outstanding Talk Show host), top L, and star bar partner, actress Portia de Rossi, L, in Hollywood on Friday.

Genuine Italian masterpieces

By Cassandra C. Tijoco

OF THE FILM FESTIVALS MOUNTED by foreign embassies in the country, probably the most substantial is the Italian Film Fest. While the others show mostly contemporary films, which we often have just seen and see hosting DVDs and are thus unable to show enough thumbsprint, the Italians are showcasing their masterworks, that is, the classics.

And it is the most unique, too, as it is held the whole year round at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, screening one film every second or third Tuesday of the month from January to December.

This year, the film from "Women of the Italian Cinema" in theme and features three of the world's most celebrated actresses: Sophia Loren, Anna Magnani and Giulietta Masina.

Of the 12 films being showcased, seven are dramas, about three of them genuine masterpieces.

Only Sidney Pollack's "The Days of the Guardians," Cristina Comencini's "Don't Tell" (June 19), Roberto Benigni's "The Tiger and the Snow" (July 10), Gillo Pontecorvo's "Burn!" and Gabriele Muccino's "Remember Me, My Love" (Nov. 13) are contemporary and they're best seen on big screens instead of little ones, especially if you've pirated DVDs since last year.

With the classics, though you have already seen them on DVD, you still want to see them on the wider screen as many homemovers, every instance of single and lighting better captioned and appreciated in bigger space.

Lucky this year, three of Moreno de Sica's films were screened: "Two Women," "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" and "The Gold Italian Style."

On April, "Lina Wertmuller's "Seven Beauties" was screened. Nominated for four Oscars, this is the film for which a female director was nominated for the first time in the Academy Awards. Not

reminder that Wertmuller's finest.

Look forward to "Rosi's Still" if you go for a drama of twisted souls, and "The Tiger and the Snow" if you have a taste for Benigni's kind of comedy.

And don't miss the Paolo Franchi's "Mamma Roma" on Aug. 14. Banned for obscenity upon its release in the mid-'60s, it is now considered a classic featuring a powerhouse performance by Magnani, one of cinema's greatest actresses.

Don't miss the original "Tango Away" on Oct. 9, Wertmuller's controversial film on sexual politics. It is still startling after all those years, still inflammatory for who we consider the Madonna to some cinephile.

Most of all, adjust your schedule for the days to catch the screening of Federico Fellini's "Juliet of the Spirits" on Dec. 11. This explosion of literally psychedelic is the companion piece of "8½" and the director's first color film, is considered by some to be his finest. Stop, if that's not one reason to fight tooth and nail to get to see...

SOPHIA (Loren in "Two Women"

Ambassador of film

From page E1

and interviews will be posted on the show's web site. The directors were also asked to review two "On the Go!" episodes for the site.

Among the questions asked by the duo which is now answered Boys' filmmaking principles.

He answered: "I was asked which the biggest danger for a filmmaker these days. I said it was to be an egomaniac—because a filmmaker has a big responsibility to his audience."

Good filmmaking is not just about technique, Boyet pointed out. "You must have a story, too."

He noted that "On the Go!" is also to "an on-air like school that presents real challenges to aspiring filmmakers."

He explained: "It goes beyond theories and techniques. This talent search deals with the reality of filmmaking; the processes, the problems."

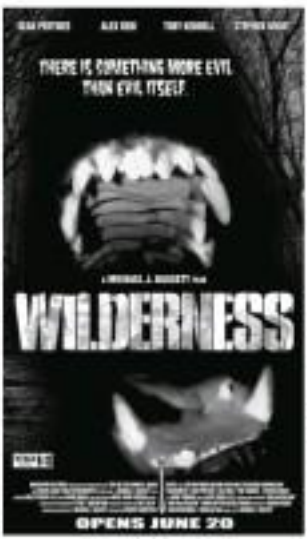
Yesterday filmmakers how to deal with studio heads, for example, Boyet added.

"It gives tips on how to make your film, without compromising your principles and becoming a prostitute."

Here he watched a local network could come up with a similar concept, he said. "This is one way to utilize digital technology. This kind of shows could educate those directors with a Masters in complex. They need to realize that they should serve themselves from before that could serve an entire industry."

A reality show on filmmaking is "far more interesting than the vacillating garbage on [Pinoy Big Brother]," Boyet insisted. "I prefer 'Pinoy Dream Academy' [of which he was one of the mentors] because it inspires [one's] dreams to showers. As a production, PBB is a Mexican experiment and the local version is a carbon of a carbon created with a dearth of ideas."

But that's another story.



FEEDBACK

Know your scriptwriters

From Melinda S. Mendez, Pasig City:

I watched "Dharee" on May 27, when Regine Velasquez and Piolo Pascual were promoting their movie "Paano Kita Iibigin." At one point, Dharee Carera, who had not seen the film, gave it a thumbs-up just because it was a Star Cinema production.

She asked Piolo and Regine who wrote the screenplay. That's when the problem started.

The camera caught the two guests' dazed reactions to the question. Piolo seemed to recall, dimly, that he had read the finished film script, a movie whose script had actually been written by real people, like you hoped they were ready to pop out of their rockets' nose cones.

Who wrote it

Both stars looked beyond the camera scrambling for an answer. Finally, they mouthed two names, but it seemed as if that was the first time they heard of those people. Scribes!

This from you was made worse by the fact that Dharee, a seasoned pro who knows full well the power of a great script, rationed her praise—and rightly so—that writers should always be acknowledged for their work.

What I find encouraging and disheartening now is the fact that those people, not Fuo, actually wrote "Paano Kita Iibigin"—something I discovered after seeing the movie poster.

I have been a teacher of literature for almost two decades. A novel, a play, a script is better understood and appreciated when one knows the genius behind it. Actors classic know more than just their co-actors, producers or directors. After all, the written word—the story and the screenplay—is the basic ingredient of a film or show. Without it, actors will have nothing at all ... diare wouldn't be a movie!

Moving dialogue

[If] actors can remember their managers, make-up artists, stylists and plastic surgeons, they [should also] pay attention to the people who give them memorable dialogue that often make them famous.

Frankly, it had been a while since I last heard arresting and emotionally moving dialogue as none lines in "Dharee." Your my teenage son who doesn't like Tagalog movies, was sulking in search the movie to after watching for walks.

Piolo, Regine, your actions for this movie are most deserving. John Paul Medina and Mario to 'elders. Please acknowledge them next chance you get.

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MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES SHOWN SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 FANTASTIC FOUR - TSX
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 MEET the ROBINSONS
8 IndieSine: BIG TIME
9 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
10 BORDERTOWN

ERMITA

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
BORDERTOWN
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
7 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

METRO EAST

1 MEET the ROBINSONS
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
6 BORDERTOWN
FANTASTIC FOUR
7 FANTASTIC FOUR
8 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

NOVALICHES

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
3 OCEAN' 13
4 SLIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 MEET the ROBINSONS

PIONEER

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 MEET the ROBINSONS

STA. ROSA

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 28 WEEKS LATER
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SLIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

LIPA

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 WHISPER
4 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
5 28 WEEKS LATER

DASMARINAS

1 ZODIAC
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 SLIP
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 FANTASTIC FOUR

ANGELES

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 OCEAN'S 13
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

IMUS

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 FANTASTIC FOUR
3 ZODIAC
4 OCEAN'S 13
5 SLIP
6 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?

STARMILLS

1 OCEAN'S 13
2 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3
3 PAANO KITA IIBIGIN?
4 SLIP
5 FANTASTIC FOUR
6 FANTASTIC FOUR

BACOLOD

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 MEET the ROBINSONS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 RESERVE
5 MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY
6 OCEAN'S 13

ILOILO

1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 WHISPER
3 OCEAN'S 13
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
5 MEET the ROBINSONS / MR. BEAN
6 PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN 3

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A LIFE — BY JOS ASBEN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY NIK JUNIOR

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

LOVEBOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

KYOMI AND MISSY — BY LYNN GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PAMILONG

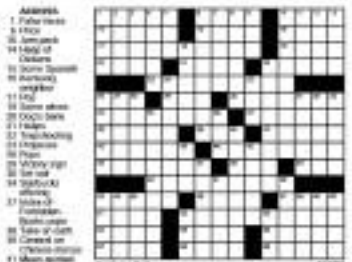
EKID PANCHINE — BY ERWIN ABREN

MAKINGDOMOS — BY JOHN ETTEDGUI

TULDOK — BY PAPA AND TATUM HILARIBILANE

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

	8	7		3			1	
3			9					8
		2		8		3		5
			3		9		5	
1		4				2		3
	2		1		6			
8		1		9		7		
7				2				6
	3		5			9	8	

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	4	7	5	6	3	9	8	1
5	3	1	4	8	9	6	7	2
6	8	9	2	7	1	4	5	3
1	7	6	8	2	5	3	4	9
4	9	5	1	3	7	8	2	6
3	6	2	7	9	4	5	1	8
9	2	4	3	1	8	7	6	5
8	1	3	6	5	2	1	9	4
7	5	6	9	4	2	1	3	8

Sleek, 'sympathetic' villain in new 'Fantastic Four' film caper

WE'RE WOULD'VE TRE MOVIES DO without dastardly villains who seem to rule or destroy the world?

Another such diabolical connoisseur is wound out in 'Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer,' and our lone colorful superhero hunts their souls out for chaos as they join forces to foil the latest diabolical plot to pulverize the planet.

This time around, the plan is to knock our planet of its magma core, to fuel the galaxy-wide devastator mouth of a monstrous super force.

Most of the time, however, this ultimate maverick prefers to annihilate to the shadows, and his evil work is executed for him by his all-powerful creation, the Silver Surfer.

This latest super-villain looks like an ary dore figure, but there's nothing beautiful about the violence and destruction he wreaks. In a plea for "sympathy," it turns out that he's being forced to destroy everything on behalf of his evil master, because his loved ones are being held hostage on another planet, How—melodrama music.

Perhaps, we're informed that the Silver Surfer's vast powers emanate from his sleek surfboard, so our formance superfriends source up with the sensible plan of separating the surfer from his all-powerful board.

From after that happens, however, the emotive remains dangerous, because the surfer's character decides to take over, and the humans from us hard-pressed to keep up with him.

It's a good thing that they accidentally discover that they can "exchange superpowers," so this adds to the fun around of strengths. It also confounds the enemy as

yesterday's fireball is today's to shuffleboard, etc.—Inspired!

All this is severely speculative, so viewers on the viewing side of age 13 need to review their childlike sense of wonder or their adolescent sense of the silly and improbable, or they can enjoy this movie. Ask too many "logical" questions, and you're a party pooper.

Even for silly comics-based capers, however, "Silver Surfer" is too improbable by half. And to really a tall order to be appropriately terrified by a new villain that looks like an antique car's hood ornament!

'Slip' and 'Foster Child'

2007 is shaping up as an interesting and interactive year for Indie films.

On the local scene, the veteran production outfit has ventured the "sexy sophisticated" film type with the good showing at the tills of "Slip," starring Diana Zubiri, Wilson Radjes and Pinoming Ortaleza.

And on the international horizon loom, its significance and relevance dreams, "Foster Child," has won both plaudits and territorial sales in different parts of Europe and the Americas.

Will silent having the best of both worlds?

With its rave successes, Solko may have found a viable formula for its filmmaking plans for the next few years: Producing different kinds of movies for distinct film markets and niche audiences. That way, it can cover more cinematic ground, and its products don't have to compete with each other.

The success of "Foster Child" is particularly instructive, because it shows that even small-cost, low-profile independent movies, as long as they're sensitively created and professionally produced, can make the film world sit up and take notice.

Some local producers think that the best way to compete with Hollywood blockbusters is to also produce pricey adventure movies. But that's an expensive failure because nobody can outHollywood Hollywood.

As "Foster Child" shows, the most judicious tack to take is to provide what big-time Hollywood has little interest in: heart, insight and inspiration.

As for "Slip," it has wound very movies from the genre where it has been consigned by viewers for some years now, after a spate of chimpic quickies and sleazoid stinkers over the clothes-ripped voyeurs our three hour interval.

Some film people celebrate the movie's good showing because it indicates that the viewing public is once again open to smart material, provided it's well-produced.

This is welcome news, because the industry has been churning out generally shallow, dumbed-stuff of late. Sexy movies aren't all that deep either, but at least they have more meat in them!

ENTERTAINMENT

When music hits the metro

Friday night was eventful for music-loving Filipinos in the metropolis, with retro songs at the Big Dome in Quezon City, pop champs at Teatrino in Greenhills in San Juan, and hot jazz at Sofitel Hotel in Pasay City

'Walang tulugan' at the 5th Manila Jazz Festival

By Pachela Cornejo
Contributor

WINE FLOWED AND THE MUSIC PLAYED till midnight during the 5th Manila Jazz Festival held at the United Nations Pavilion of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel.

A full house crowd sat through six hours of almost non-stop performances by 13 bands, each one displaying the agility, emotion and intensity that captures the essence of good jazz music.

Most of the people in the audience, including a good number of foreigners, apparently appreciated the long nights and empowered groupies in venue in what these aces are showing.

But there were pockets of romance.

The Jazz Volunteers, featuring Silvan Bondoc on electric piano, Michael Guerrero on on and Blue Diesel on drums, were playing an unknown bumpy tune called "Balatan" when a woman behind us started sobbing with her gang. "Hindi kaya kip na ang pain?" Getting no answer, she carried on in her squeaky voice: "Mahaba ang buhok ko rin..."

Strangely enough, the Jazzists expressing "hahaba ang buhok" used to be bored only among rock 'n' roll fans to describe an extreme moment while listening to a blistering guitar solo or drama heavy metal band.

Guitarist-Vic Sage Hojilla's Lizard Jo Mejia, acting as co-host after leading his band in open-

SINGKAHAIT

MAKILAmoves

ing the concert, engaged the audience with al, reinforcing serious and funny lines to underscore the unfolding experience.

Going nuts

One minute, he lectured like a bohemian professor from Berklee: "Jazz is all about freedom, innovation, select, rhythm..."

The next, he acted like a college freshman: "They sent Two Tolentino going nuts on the mic."

Tolentino, accompanied by his band he called the BIG Project, made his bum sour like a mushroom, indeed, showing off noise that shrieked with discourteous and surreal qualities.

Guitarist Edgar "Kuneng" Imutan gamely answered the Cage-inspired chaos, but his solo-like notes a confusing road map.

As Tolentino kept up the pace with a tribute to Charlie Parker called "My Little Suzy Blues," we sprinted a man about 50 years old tapping his palm on his knee. He looked like a serious jazz fan.

But just when the succulent took off again and shifted from exaggeration to subtlety, the woman behind us resumed her complaints: "Grabe, ang ingay! Sumasakit na ang ulo ko!"

Revelation

Thankfully, she and her gang had disappeared by the time Sol Arriquelo and her band, Interlibid!, took the stage. The group, introduced as proponents of neo-soul with a bit of funk and rock, was a revelation.

Arriquelo was particularly impressive, her voice a multifarious instrument that sounded

LIST Jazz Band

REVIEW
THOMAS Salva of The Jazz Angels

MICHAEL YOUNG

CYNTHIA ALEXANDER

like a naughty trumpet. "Skin Jo," she crooned, "nahuugot kita..."

The quirky sentimentality of Interlibid!'s originals reminded us of Meshell Ndegeocello's version of "Stolen Song."

Mejia, already a crowd drawer at the height of jam fever in clubs like Cubrea Bar in the 1990s, smiled, bowed and growled, provoking the audience to finally kick off their shoes.

De Reyes, shouting like crazy, collected his wits and said: "To quote my favorite jazz artist, Norman Mineta... making bilages!"

When the French trombone Thomas Salva and his band the Jazz Angels began to play the tempo turned fast and furious. Lyrics, only 19 years old, manipulated the grand piano like he was baking bread double-time. But he sacrificed his wrist power to switched to the violin. The "double" he engaged in with his hand seems hopped with intensity. We are sure the beat applauded.

But we're not sure was the Brass Monkeys, a band that sounded like the Brass Kittys On Jazz, and by a super-guitarist who looked like Jarrold Mendoza (Tribute Bandits, Pop Idol.) the Brass Monkeys played vibrant swing and took jazz to the point where it sounded comfortably unthreatening to roll.

The mood was totally lost when the UST Jazz Band and the UP Jazz Ensemble played their respective jazz.

In between their sets, the still cutesy Marina Sergio sang three songs that began with the Mandaluyong Ecuador version of "Shakey Song."

Sergio, already a crowd drawer at the height of jam fever in clubs like Cubrea Bar in the 1990s, smiled, bowed and growled, provoking the audience to finally kick off their shoes.

De Reyes, shouting like crazy, collected his wits and said: "To quote my favorite jazz artist, Norman Mineta... making bilages!"

Concert of champions, for champions

By Cora Lucia

THIS FUNDRAISING CONCERT WAS, IN A way, born out of hope—and desperation.

Organizers of the World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) Incito singe the chorus, "Champions of the World," to present this year's Team Philippines... a unique group of established artists and performers in the line.

But the concert had a fellow mission: To provide travel and financial support for the delegates who are set to fly to Hollywood, California to compete with representatives of over 50 countries from July 28 to Aug. 5.

The singers are urged to look for sponsors who would shoulder their registration fee, airfare, food and accommodation... about $3,000 per head.

"Like in the Olympics, it's the participating country that spends for its delegates to go to the competition," said Gina de Jesus, WCOPA national executive vice president for entertainment.

Talent Olympics

WCOPA itself is considered the only "official Talent Olympics" for performers and entertainers.

Competing this year's Team Philippines are pop vocalist and former Company member Andrea Laurence; "Philippine Idol" finalist Raymond Saint; "Pare, Ilan grandstyles artiste Ilocano Negro; and "Big Impression" finalist Ana Clemente; Kamikazee-based frontman Raoul and 2006 Manhunt International semi-finalist Jojo Rabulla.

Carlo handpicked some of the delegates; the others he had to audition to get into the team.

The competition consists of three rounds, the first to determine the gold, silver and bronze medalists. The medalists then move on to the second round, where the second world champion will be decided. Outstanding performers will finally perform in a gala of judges who will pick the "Grand Champion of the World" title.

The grand winner will receive $10,000 and a scholarship in The Juilliard School.

"We want the world to know that the Philippines is a breeding zone of artists," said Carlo, who considers entertainer in the team a bit overzealous.

Friday night at the Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills—a venue which, Carlo said, was given to them for the night by owner Vince Fernandez—supporters came en masse to cheer for the 9 acts, those featured in the audience were TV host/Comedian/Mommy, talent manager Bernie Hemsen and wife network executive Ida Henares, former WCOPA national director.

The Production Band was a... workhorse, with its original compositions. Bassist Jo Bautista's glib piece that showcased Jeremiah Calleja's powerful vocals. Their interpretation of "Hotel California" had the guitarist, Bobby Pinlad, playing only his notes from start to finish.

JEREMIAH CALLEJA

BOBBY PINLAD

REUBEN LAURENTE

RAYMOND MEJOR

REVIEW

The Philippine group stumbled on a gold nugget in 11-year-old Aria, who effortlessly sang the Broadway songs "Desire" and "Nothing" in classical theater fashion. Aria almost bowed out of the competition for lack of funds, but Teatrino owner Ayi Fernandez helped her raise her sponsorship quota.

Reserved showed off strong vocals taken by performed the song "Why God, Why?" from "Miss Saigon." As we go to press, the organizers informed us that Reserved got a P100,000 pledge from a Cebu-based company after his impressive performance.

Power ballad

Pabil, who was being coached by Lea Salonga for the competition, gave a power-ballading rendition of "On My Own," also from "Miss Saigon" and "Holding" from "Once On This Island."

Reuben reckons the Company's drummed his vocal range, with pieces for the Cirque-ed Music Theater categories.

Joel Mallabo—WCOPA 2005 "Grand Champion of the World," having won in six categories—demonstrated his support for this year's delegates by performing in the Teatrino counterfeit fan.

Joel sang a medley of hit songs by his idols: Sharon Cuneta, Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera.

Carlo, who calls himself "semi-retired," joined the pack in the finale, with the song "Go The Distance."

For donations to the 2007 WCOPA Team Philippines, call (0928) 7722258 or e-mail angge_ayi@e-manila.com.ph.

A very appreciative audience

By Marinel R. Cruz

UNLIKE OTHER BIG CONCERTS HELD IN Manila, the show starring 1960s hitmaker duo Chad and Jeremy and pop band The Association reached exactly 6 p.m.

This was regardless of the fact that half of the audience was already still en route to the venue. The Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City, at that time.

By the end the crowd filled up roughly three-fourths of the 10,000-seater coliseum. They were mostly 30- to 50-year-olds, with a few yuppies who appeared curious to their parents or older relatives.

REVIEW

The three-hour show was divided into equal parts between the featured acts. Chad Stuart and Jeremy Clyde took the first half.

"Very appreciative" would best describe the appreciative who enthusiastically applauded, sang along and immediately screamed and hooted to indicate familiarity with each number. Among the personalities spotted in the crowd were Joey de Leon, Mike Enriquez, Bibi Thomas and talent manager Douglas Quijano.

Among the most applauded Chad and Jeremy numbers were "I Write You," "In My Cell" and "Dream of You." People joined in singing "Walk Away Renee," "Yes Sir, It's California Dreaming," the unconscious big hit that might soon be endearing "Darnell."

Chad and Jeremy decided to pick up their guitars again in 2004, decades after they stopped performing. Their first comeback stop was the Philippines. They performed at the Aliw Theater in Metro City.

In Friday's show, the duo fished out a crate of folk rock and romantic tunes and melancholies that coincided with the release of its latest hits.

"This was first heard on a TV show in England," Jeremy said by way of introducing "Dream of You." No cookie-cutter. "The Shadow Rings Have You" is another of its "fabulous pop" fits and, it wouldn't be consecutive England but a result in the States. He was right."

The original Association first performed in Manila in 1986. The band is currently composed of three regulars on vocals, Larry Ramos and Jim Yester on vocals and guitars, Brian Price on drums,

CHAD & JEREMY

David Jackson on bass and Jordan Cole on keyboards and synthesizers.

Larry, a retired music instructing teen about the band who goes the world "Windy" and "Never My Love."

Larry's father hailed from La Union, and his mom was from Pampanga. "That makes me three quarters Ilocano and one quarter Tagalog," he told the audience.

"Cherish" was the second most played song in the United States in the 1960s, second only to the Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling."

The group leader's favorite is "Yes Sir, I'M A Lil," released in 1967, song a bit in Manila until they came here in 1986. "We were responsible for playing it," Larry revealed, amused. "But we couldn't remember the lyrics!"

THE ASSOCIATION